

CHILDREN'S WEEK OF PRAYER



March  
5-12  
2011

I CAN  
**TALK  
TO GOD**



CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRIES  
INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION





## MESSAGE TO CHILDREN MINISTRIES WORKERS AND PARENTS

Dear Brethren:

With the purpose of inject our spiritual lives with the necessary elements for a better relationship with God and to develop and Christ-like attitude, the Inter-American Division launched a new directive and purpose for this quinquennium: prayer and revival.

One of the initiatives for this year 2011 is the program CONSTANT IN PRAYER. Prayer being the key to obtain the victory against the conflict we face in the world today. A life of prayer is one resulting from training and obedience, knowing that without divine strength no one will be able to survive the “wages of sin” inside and outside ourselves.

Furthermore, we understand that this training process should start in the early years in order to be the fulfillment of God’s Word through the inspired words of David, the psalmist. In Proverbs 22:6 God said, *“Start a child on the right path, while he’s young, and when he is old, he will not forget what he’s been thought”*. (TCW). Many know this verse by memory and we use it continuously, but unless we really dig into its meaning and take those words seriously as a Divine instruction from God it will be just another good verse. Because of its importance, the Inter-American Division has chosen a special day, Sabbath March 12, to train the children of our Division to take as their own and put into practice what being CONSTANT IN PRAYER is all about.

For hands on experience on prayer and in preparation for that special day, you will find in the following pages the necessary material to conduct a week of prayer from May 5-11 in every church in our territory. We thank Mrs. Erna Alvarado Poblete, Children’s Ministries Director for the Inter-Oceanic Union in Mexico, for preparing this valuable material for us.

We ask with prayers that each pastor, leader, teacher, parent, and every person that has a contact with the children make every effort to model and teach the importance of having a prayer life and the study of God’s Word as an integral part of their lives and that this material may be used with the power of the Holy Spirit for the spiritual growth of our children.

May the Lord help us to trust, depend and act like Jesus did.

With prayers,



M Dinorah Rivera, Director

Children's Ministries  
Inter-American Division

## SESSIONS



When I pray I talk to God



When I pray God hears  
me



When I pray God answers me



When I pray God helps me



When I pray God forgives me



When I pray I enjoy  
God's company



When I pray I can hear the voice  
of God

## **SUGGESTIONS**

We suggest that this week of children spiritual emphasis be held in the church building.

We hope that the parents join in the adoration with their children, for which we recommend that no other activity should be going on in the church that will interfere with this program.

Those who are directing can make the parents participate in different parts of the program so they could feel involved in the same.

The activities are designed so that parent and child could do them together.

## Decoration of the Church

**PRAYER WALL:** Choose a wall in the church and hang a large bulletin board that says “PRAYER WALL”. Night after night the children will place their prayer petitions and those of their parents. At the end of the week you could do a ceremony of petition burning.

**PLATFORM DECORATION:** Decorate with a large banner that says “**I CAN TALK WITH GOD**” and in the center place the images of children praying around the image of Jesus.

**BADGES:** Prepare different badges to be placed on the collars of each child.

## THEME SONG

### A LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS

A little talk with Jesus makes it right all right,  
A little talk with Jesus makes it right all right,  
Through trials every kind,  
Praise God I always find,  
I little talk with Jesus makes it right all right.

### 2

Though dark the night and clouds look black and stormy overhead,  
And trials almost every kind across my path are spread;  
How soon I conquer all, as to the Lord I call,  
A little talk with Jesus makes it right all right.

### 3

And thus by frequent little talks I gain the victory,  
And march along with cheerful song, enjoying liberty;  
With Jesus as my friend, I'll prove until the end,  
A little talk with Jesus makes it right, all right.



## WHEN I PRAY I TALK WITH GOD

### OBJECTIVE

For the children to understand that prayer is a conversation with God and that we all have access to it.

### MATERIALS

- Telephone
- Mail man bag
- Mail man whistle
- E-mails
- Charts to illustrate the Bible lessons
- Work sheets
- Costumes for the character you will represent

### PRAISE TIME

- Project the theme song on the screen and let the parents and children sing as they place their prayer requests on the “PRAYER WALL”.
- Do prayers of petition and gratitude. All the children along with their parents will kneel near the “PRAYER WALL”, each child will spread out their PRAYER MAT.

### INTRODUCTION

(Put two teachers to the front and let them send a message from one to the other using their cell phone. Let the cell phone ring a few times, until the children hear it. The person who receives the message will turn to the children and say: Boys and Girls, I have just received a message from teacher \_\_\_\_\_ she is sending a message to all of you. How incredible are the inventions that man has made, right? A few years back we didn't even dream of telephones like these, we only knew these (show them a conventional telephone) and



before that, the news would reach us in a very different way (ask a parent to dress as a postman and at this moment enters the room blowing the whistle and announcing that he has a letter for the teacher. She opens the letter and reads, Boys and Girls! This letter that I have just received has wonderful news; it says that to talk to God we do not need cellular phones, telephones or letters. The only thing we need to do to communicate with God is to pray; don't you think that is marvelous news?

## REPRESENTATION

(A father will enter representing Jeremiah with a scroll in his hands)

Beloved children, God wants you to go to Him and talk to Him. He wants you to tell Him all that you have in your heart and mind. When you pray it is like talking with Him and you could do it anywhere and at any moment.

I am Jeremiah and I can tell you that I did this all the days of my life on earth, that is why I wrote in my book: (open the scroll) "You seek me and you will find me, because you have seek me with all your heart". (He leaves walking slowly while he says aloud: The Lord said so! The Lord said so! The Lord said so!)

## BIBLE LESSON

Today we will learn about how happy God feels when we talk with him, and of all the good we receive when we do so. "Prayer" is the word we use when we say that we want to talk to God. In other words, converse, talk with Him, as if he was our best friend and our father in whom we can trust.

**When should we pray?** We read in the Bible: "...evening and morning and at noon will I pray and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice". **Psalms 55:16, 17**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17:** "Pray without ceasing", this means that where ever we are we could talk to God, in school, while we are playing, when we are going to sleep, while we do our homework and when we experience sad moments or have a problem because God has promised to be with us.

**Where can we pray?** **Isaiah 56:7** says: "My house shall be called a house of prayer". Do you know what is God's house?...of course. The church is the most special place where with all surety we could have a friendly and loving conversation with God.

The Bible says that Daniel prayed three times a day and he did so from his room. Open your Bibles with me and read what **Daniel 6:10** says, “Daniel went into his house and opened the windows of his room and knelt down three times that day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days”.

Where ever you are and needs to talk to God, you could call Him in prayer and He will come and help you, accompany you and give you surety, consolation and companion.

**How can we pray?** When we pray to God in our homes which is our church, we kneel before His presence with reverence; but when we are in the street or in school and we have the urgent need to talk to God we can do it walking, or standing. Also the hymns we sing to God are prayers with music, but we should do it with joy and happiness.

## **APPEAL**

Although God has his throne in heaven, when you pray He is close to you, listening to you as your faithful and best friend.

## **CRAFT WORK**

Infants will color the page which corresponds to the lesson for that day and will repeat the memory verse.

Early Teens will resolve the Bible exercise which corresponds to the lesson for that day.

**Memory verse:** “Evening and morning and mid-day will I pray and call upon your name and He will hear my voice. (Psalm 55:17)

## **CLOSING**

Sing the theme song.



# WHEN I PRAY GOD HEARS ME

## OBJECTIVE

That the children have the surety that God always hears their prayers, even when the words that we use are simple.

## MATERIALS

- Objects that produce sounds
- Charts that illustrate the Bible lesson
- Work sheets
- Costumes for the character that will be represented

## PRAISE TIME

The teacher starts by numbering some reasons we should praise God, you could say, I praise God for:

- The great love He has for me
- Because He give me what I need
- Because he saves me from danger

After, invite a child and his parent to come up to the pulpit and praise God for a blessing received, give opportunity so that 3 or 4 children along with their parents could participate.

**\*Sing the Theme Song together**

## INTRODUCTION

Materials for this moment:

- Whistle
- Harmonica
- Bell
- Rattle
- Tambourine
- Any other object that makes a good sound

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Before the children arrives put the objects in a paper bag
2. Ask the children to close their eyes, take an object and let it sound inside the bag
3. Ask if they could identify the object that they heard
4. Go to the other object until they are finished

## What you will say to conclude:

Sometimes we recognize something just by the sound it makes, right? But other times although we hear the sound we do not know what it is. But when we pray, the same does not occur. Although each person has a different tone of voice God identifies each one and He knows your name and where you live and the necessities you have. And whenever we pray, although we all do so at the same time, He listens to us with tender care and love. Isn't that marvelous? That is the care God has for you, and the attention he places on your prayers.

## REPRESENTATION

*(A father comes in representing Eli the priest)*

The Bible says: "Now this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we seek anything according to His will, He hears us". **1 John 5:14, 15.**

Beloved children, this promise of God were a reality in the life of a woman who had faith in God. One morning while we were doing service in the temple, I saw her come in. She had her face covered and knelt at the altar crying. At first I thought she was drunk but when I came close to her to ask he to go home I found out it wasn't so. She prayed to God crying y asking with a loud voice, she was very sad and upset. She surely brought a great distress on her. When she finished praying with her face filled with peace, she got up from her knees and went

home calmly. She told me that she had asked God something in her prayer and that she was sure He had heard her. Shortly I learned that God had given her a son which was what she asked God for. It was her son Samuel, who after a while she brought to serve in the temple as she had promised God. (He comes out walking slowly while he said aloud) God always hears our prayers! God always hears our prayers!

## **Bible Lesson**

Today we remember the story of Hannah. She was a woman who had everything to make her happy, she had a beautiful house, a husband who loved her, and however, she lacked something. She felt that her house was too silent; she needed the joy of a child. Ana wanted so bad to become a mother. That is because you children are the happiness of your mothers and fathers. (Invite the mothers at this moment to give a big hug to their children). Hannah did not have a child to hug, nor someone to say “I love you”, this made her very sad.

However, she trusted God, she knew that He listens to her prayers and so one day she got up and went to the temple. While the priest Eli sat beside a pillar in Jehovah’s temple, she came with a sad soul, prayed to God and cried inconsolable, and said: (ask a mother to dress according to that time and say the prayer of Ana).

**“Jehovah of the army, if you care to look at the affliction of your servant, remember me, and do not forget your servant, but give your servant a boy child, and I will dedicate him to Jehovah all the days of his life and he will not shave his head.”**

While she prayed for a long time before God, Eli the priest observed that she moved her lips, so then he thought she was drunk, and he said: “How long will you be drunk? You were drinking wine! But Hannah answered, No my lord, I am a woman who is troubled in spirit. I did not drink any wine, but I have poured out my heart before Jehovah. Do not think your servant is a wicked woman; I am just now speaking because of the magnitude of sadness and afflictions I have. Then Eli told her: Go in peace, and the God of Israel will grant you the petition you have made.

The story continues that after the time was completed, after being with child, Hannah gave birth to a son, and he gave him the name Samuel, because she said – I asked Jehovah for him.

## **APPEAL**

God listened to Hannah and answered her prayer; you are a child and surely you also have a petition to make to God. Maybe there are petitions that no one knows about; secret things

that are in your hearts. However, God knows them all and if they are good things that will help you to be better, do not doubt in asking Him, He always listens to you.

***Give out paper so that the children could write their prayer petitions on them and place them on the PRAYER WALL.***

## **CRAFT WORK**

Infants will color the page corresponding to the lesson of this day and will repeat the memory verse.

Early Teens will resolve the Bible exercise that corresponds to the lesson for this day.

**Memory Verse:** “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we seek anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked Him.” **1 John 5:14, 15**

## **MOMENTS OF PRAYER**

The children will form groups of prayer with their parents.

## **CLOSING**

Sing the theme song.



# WHEN I PRAY GOD ANSWERS ME

## OBJECTIVE

For the children to understand that God always answers prayers.

## MATERIALS

- Charts with the words **YES, NO, WAIT**
- Charts to illustrate the Bible lesson
- Costumes of the person

## PRAISE TIME

- Give the opportunity to some of the children so they could share their testimony how God had answered some of their prayers.
- Sing the Theme Song together

## INTRODUCTION

Maybe it is hard for you to understand how it is that God hears and answers our prayers. I will try to explain it in a simple way. The relationship that God would like you to have with Him is like the relationship you have with your parents. I know that when you need something you ask your parents and also I know that when you ask if it is good for you they will give you.

Let us suppose that your shoes are torn up and old, and before you ask for another pair your parents gather up some money and at the first opportunity they have buy a new pair, because they know that you need a new pair, because if you are bare foot you could get sick or you could hurt your feet. But if some time you ask them for a toy or a box of sweets, and they do not give it to you because they know that it is not so important, this is something they give you sometimes or on special occasions when they have extra money. So then, your Heavenly Father sometimes does more or less the same. When you ask Him for something in prayer he

**ALWAYS HEARS YOU**, that is what you learnt in the pass lesson. The lesson for today will teach you that, God **ALWAYS ANSWER YOU**. Only sometimes He says **YES**, other times He says **NO** and other times He says **WAIT**. But what you should be sure of is that He **always answers**. For this reason, you should no doubt when the answer does not come from God the way you were expecting. Be very confident, because remember that He desires the best for you.

## REPRESENTATION

### (A father dressed like Jacob)

When my children returned from the field and gave me the news that my beloved son Joseph was eaten by a fierce animal, I felt desolate. I have asked God so much to take care of him and now I am crying because he is dead. At that moment I could not understand God's plan, and even my faith failed for a moment. But as I know that God never fails, I clinged to His marvelous promises and I continued to trust Him and His unconditional love. I was sure that God always answers every prayer (he leaves slowly saying: yes God answers all prayers, He always answers prayers).

## BIBLE LESSON

Today we are going to review a marvelous story of a young boy who in spite of going through some hard and sad experiences he never stopped praying and trusting that God answers all prayers positively. I refer to Joseph, when he was only a boy his mother died, that was very sad, right? But God was with him giving him comfort when he asked for it. Later when he was a youth his brothers, feeling jealousy of him, treated him bad and banished him to a remote part of the country. But he did not blame God for the loneliness and even though he prayed and asked God for his brothers to love him it seems that God was not responding. However, knowing the entire story we know that God did answer, only that His answer was (ask the children to choose the answer: YES, NO, WAIT). Review the most outstanding things in the story of Joseph.

Write the following phrases on the board, and have the three possible answers of God written on a chart (YES, NO, WAIT) and let the children choose what they think is right and place it near the phrase.



- When Joseph was sold as a slave and he prayed asking God for them to take him back home, God's answer was: \_\_\_\_\_
- When Joseph was accused falsely and taken to jail and he prayed to be liberated from the jail, God's answer was: \_\_\_\_\_
- When Joseph prayed asking for wisdom to interpret Pharaoh's dream, God answer was: \_\_\_\_\_
- When Joseph prayed asking for protection for his people, God's answer was: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*You could include other phrases**

## **APPEAL**

Beloved children, raise your prayers with faith to your Heavenly Father, He will always answer you giving you the best, in the best time. If the answer to your prayer is YES, or NO, or WAIT, for sure it is what you need and have faith, even though it could seem contrary to what you asked.

## **CRAFT WORK**

Infants will color the page which corresponds to the lesson for that day and repeat the memory verse.

Early Teens will resolve the Bible exercise which corresponds to the lesson for that day.

**Memory Verse:** "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear". Isaiah 65:24

## **MOMENTS OF PRAYER**

**You will make Prayer Circles.**

- The children will form small circles
- The adults will form circles around the children
- They will pray for the necessities of the children

## **CLOSING**

Sing the Theme Song



# WHEN I PRAY GOD HELPS ME

## OBJECTIVE

The children will know that when we pray we find help to face the big and small challenges in our daily lives.

## MATERIALS

- Blank pages
- Coloring pencils, markers, pencils
- Charts to illustrate the Bible lesson
- Work sheets
- Costumes for the character you will represent

## PRAISE TIME

- Invite some of the children to interpret some songs by singing or playing an instrument.
- Testimonies from some of the children so that they share how God has helped them when they needed it.
- Sing the Theme Song

## INTRODUCTION

Have a special place prepared before hand, with paper, coloring pencils, markers, pencils, crayons, stamps, appropriate magazine clippings. Permit the children to work with these materials using the theme: "God is my helper".

Before starting tell the children: I am sure you have several wonderful stories about how God has helped you when you asked Him in prayer. I would like each of you to illustrate with this material one of these marvelous experiences where God has helped you. (Guide the children through this work and make sure they do not take more than 10 minutes. When they are done some of the children could explain what they have illustrated).

## REPRESENTATION

### **(A father will represent King Saul)**

I am King Saul. I want you to know that when the David the young shepherd of the sheep came before me, telling me that he was willing to face Goliath, I wanted to laugh. He looked so small and weak, he was not even a soldier, he did not know how to use the weapons and I was sure Goliath was going to finish him quickly. However, seeing him so determined, and following the counsels of the boss of my army, I accepted his offer. I made him confront Goliath. And when Goliath fell dead I could not believe it! Without a doubt God answers those who ask Him! (He leaves slowly saying in a loud voice) God always helps those who ask Him in prayer! God always helps those who ask Him in prayer!

## **BIBLE LESSON**

The story we will study today is an emotional story of heroism and bravery. David was a brave and courageous young man, but his courage was not because of his self sufficiency, but he got strength through God by asking Him in prayer. When the people of Israel was oppressed by the philistines, and Jehovah's name was taken in vane, when the arrogance of a pagan giant was inflated and it provoked the sanctity of God, David in his physical weakness was filled with spiritual and emotional strength and used by God went to confront and defeat the invincible giant, killing him and vindicating the Holy name of Jehovah and the army.

His achievement was so great that it surpassed the borders of the known world in that time, and the little shepherd boy, the boy singer and troubadour later sat on the throne of the King and he was called "a man according to the heart of God" This was his greatest privilege!

You are also a boy or a girl. Maybe short in height, maybe you feel insignificant. Maybe you are not noticed in your school, maybe you are a girl with very little friends and you believe that no one sees you. But I want you to know that for God you are very important, and He sees you, He knows you, He knows your name and all the things you are able to do. So then my little friends, look to God, ask Him to help you, to fill you with His strength, with His power and you will do great things to for the Glory of God. When David threw the stone that killed Goliath, he did it in the name of Jehovah of the armies and God gave him the victory. You can do the same. You will be victorious if you do all in the name of God.

## **APPEAL**

Every time you have to face a challenge, kneel beside your bed, and tell God: Lord, help me, fill me with power. And be sure that he will make you strong and all will be well.

Maybe your giant is a subject in school that you have trouble understanding, or maybe you are afraid to stay alone at night in the dark, maybe you are afraid of another boy or girl that is bigger than you and they tell you ugly things and challenges you to fight, or maybe you are afraid to go to school alone. No matter what is your giant, God will always be at your side filling you with strength when you ask Him in prayer.

I want to invite you tonight to write on the paper (parents starts to give out the paper to the children) the name of your giant and go and place it on the "Prayer Wall", and along with your parents kneel and ask God to fill you with strength and courage to be over comers. God does not want you to live with fears. He wants you to be happy and free, feeling safe wherever you go.

**You can ask God's help for:**

- Doing an exam
- Doing a hard work
- Understanding the difficult lessons in school

## **CRAFT WORK**

Infants will color the page that corresponds to the lesson for that day and repeat the memory verse.

Early Teens will resolve the Bible exercise that corresponds to the lesson for that day.

**Memory verse:** "But let all who take refuge in you be glad, let them ever sing for joy, spread your protection over them". Psalm 5:11

## **MOMENTS OF PRAYER**

The children will elevate prayers of gratitude for guide and protection given to some of the children in a special way. (ask some of the girls and boys to give a testimony)

## **CLOSING**

Sing the Theme Song



# WHEN I PRAY GOD PARDONS ME

## OBJECTIVE

That the children understand that through prayer we have access to the throne of grace and this permits us to discharge our faults knowing that we will be pardoned.

## MATERIALS

- Wall charts to illustrate the Bible lesson
- Work sheets
- Costume for the character to be represented

## PRAISE TIME

Moment to sing songs that will praise God for the pardon He gives us each day.

## INTRODUCTION

I imagine that sometime you have heard people speak of judges and the court, right? The courts are places where persons who are accused of committing an offense go to and the judges are people who tell the accused what punishment they will get for committing the offense. When the offense is bad the judge could order the accused to go to jail and in some countries the laws say that if a person commits a great offense, like killing or other, they should be put to death; that is called the “death sentence”.

Of course going to jail must be a very sad thing and receive the “death sentence”, must be terrible. Unfortunately Satan induces persons to do bad things and sometimes we as children of God are also tempted to do things that offend God and hurt us. The good thing is to know that when we were condemned to eternal death God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for us and that way we could obtain pardon for our sins and also obtain eternal life. And even

now when we make mistakes and do things that are incorrect God is willing to pardon us if we ask Him in prayer.

## REPRESENTATION

### (A father will represent Samuel)

I am Samuel, for many years I was a priest and judge for the people of Israel. Through me, God sent messages of admonition, praise and recognition to the people. When the children of Israel did not follow the indications of God, things always went bad, but when they repented and called out to God begging pardon, He was moved by mercy and always pardoned them and continued to guide them.

(He leaves saying these words in a loud voice: When the people prayed for pardon, they were never punished, the divine pardon always reached them).

## BIBLE LESSON

We find many marvelous stories in the Bible about pardon. And one of them is found in the book of 1 Samuel 7:3-14.

This time the people of God had strayed away from Him, they had foreign gods in their homes and in the temples, like Baals and Ashtoreths. Even though God continued loving them, they had forgotten Him, and many bad things and all kinds of sin were reaching them and also they were being oppressed by other people like the Philistines.

The saddest thing for God is when His people walk far away from Him and do not recognize that He is with them, that is exactly what happened to the Israelites.

It was that time when they were in a terrible oppression that God through Samuel the prophet sent a message to the people. (You can ask the father who represented Samuel today the message). **“If you are returning to the Lord with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. Assemble all Israel at Mizpah and I will intercede with the Lord for you”.** (1 Samuel 7:3,5

The end of the story was marvelous. The Israelites listened to the voice of God through Samuel; they repented of their wrong doing and in fervent prayer asked God for pardon. They

destroyed the images and the pagan gods and fast and prayed saying with a great voice: **“We have sinned against God”**.

When the Philistines heard that the Israelites had returned to God and cried out for pardon and divine help, they went up against them and when the Israelites heard this they went to Samuel begging him to intercede for them before God, saying to Samuel: **“Do not stop crying out to the Lord our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines”**. (1 Samuel 7:8). And the story ends saying that God heard them and the Philistines were defeated before Israel. God heard them from heaven, He gave them his help and not only that, He also pardoned them.

## **APPEAL**

Beloved children, this is the unconditional love and pardon of God for you, it never ends. God loves you when you behave good and also when you do not behave well. He is always willing to pardon you if you ask Him, no matter if the offense you committed is great or small. God always pardons! God always loves us!

You can be sure that every time you commit an error and you ask forgiveness through prayer for the error committed, God will pardon you and not only that, the Bible says that when He forgives us he does not remember our sins anymore.

## **CRAFT WORK**

Infants will color the page that corresponds to the lesson for this day and repeat the memory verse.

Early Teens will resolve the Bible exercise that corresponds to the Bible lesson for this day.

**Memory verse:** “If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear them from heaven and will forgive their sins...” 2 Chronicles 7:14

## **MOMENTS OF PRAYER**

Tell the children who would like to ask God pardon for some sin committed to write it on a paper and go and place it on the Prayer Wall. Immediately, the father who represented Samuel, will appear on the platform and will pray and intercessory prayer for the children who placed their petition on the wall.

## **CLOSING**



Theme Song



# WHEN I PRAY I ENJOY GOD'S COMPANY

## OBJECTIVE

For the children to understand that prayer draws us close to God and we do so enjoying His company.

## MATERIALS

- Blank pages
- Markers and crayons
- Charts to illustrate the Bible lesson

## PRAISE TIME

Sing songs of gratitude for the unconditional love of God; two or three children could give their testimony about a time when they experienced God's company in a special way.

## INTRODUCTION

(Have a good amount of white paper in the salon, also markers and crayons so that after the words of introduction the children could work with them).

Friends are a gift from God. I am sure that many of you are here with some of your friends. Friends are persons who accompany us and help us when we have a problem and also they are happy with us when we are happy.

That is why it is good to express our love and gratitude to our friends with words and actions.

(Give out the paper and color pencils to the children, and permit five minutes for them to make up a card of gratitude for one of their friend, whether they are present in the meeting or if they would like to give them later on.)

## REPRESENTATION

**(Ask two mothers to represent Maria and Martha)**

**I am Martha** and I am happy to serve Jesus. He was our best friend and his presence in our home was always a motive of joy. My greatest joy was to prepare his favorite cakes and see him enjoy them. Jesus always acted with consideration and courtesy and was always ready to help in whatever he could, which made us want to have him in our home as long as possible.

**I am Maria**, the sister of Martha and Lazarus and I had the privilege of silting at the feet of Jesus to enjoy His sweet company and friendship. My friendship with Him was deep and close; His messages of love and hope filled my heart with peace, even more when I felt sad because of the worries of the daily life. He always gave me words of sympathy and above all things He always understood how I felt. I can say there is no other friend like Jesus.

## BIBLE LESSON

Mary and Martha were two fortunate sisters because they had Jesus in their home and they enjoyed his friendship; certainly you must be thinking that something like that would never happen to you; however, I want you to know, that when you pray, God comes near to you that he could be transform into your best friend and you could enjoy his company, although your eyes cannot see him.

In the Bible you find a wonderful story of friendship between a man and God. I would like you to look in your Bible and read with me what Genesis 5:24 says, **“Enoch walked with God, and he was no more because God took him away”**. This is a marvelous story, right?

Enoch left this world because his good friend God invited him to go to heaven and he accepted the invitation. They had spent so much time together, God had accompanied Enoch in the good times and also in the bad times, He was his comforter, his friend his counselor, his protector and his guide. Enoch delighted in his company, in such a way that when he had to decide between staying on earth and going to heaven, he decided to move to his best friend’s house in the holy land.

Would you like to know why Enoch and God became such good friends? First of all because Enoch loved God and was always ready to do what God said because he knew that it was best for him. Secondly because every time that Enoch felt sad, alone, or had a problem he went to

his best friend who was God. Mrs. Elena White, who is a prophetess of God, says the following from her divine revelation about Enoch: "In the midst of active labor, Enoch faithfully maintained his communion with God. The most urgent his labors were the most constant and fervent he was in prayer". P y P: 74. The secret of the friendship between Enoch and God was prayer that is how they talked, and maintained communicated just as how great and good friends do.

They had a wonderful friendship on this earth for more than 300 years and they were so accustomed to be together that they decided to go and live together forever. Right now both of them are in heaven and they continue to enjoy the friendship that began here on earth many years ago.

## **APPEAL**

Dear children, you can also enjoy the company of God and make him your best friend; when you pray, He comes close to you, he listens to you, he protects you, he encourages you and also he gives you good counsel so you could do the right thing.

God longs to be your favorite friend, he wants to walk together with you in such a way that when he returns with his millions of angels in the clouds of heaven and he invites you to go and live in the Holy Land, you will be ready and willing to accept the invitation.

## **CRAFT WORK**

Infants will color the page that corresponds to the lesson for this day and repeat the memory verse.

Minors will resolve the Bible exercise that corresponds to the Bible lesson for this day.

**Memory verse:** "And Enoch walked with God, and he was no more because God took him away". Genesis 5:24

## **MOMENTS OF PRAYER**

The pastor, an Elder or the Children's Ministries Director will make a call to all the children who desire to live in the company of God through constant prayer, until he returns in the clouds of heaven and go and live with him forever. He will do a prayer of dedication and proceed with the burning of the petitions that have been placed of the Prayer Wall all week.

## **CLOSING**

Theme Song



# WHEN I PRAY, I CAN HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD

## OBJECTIVE

For the children to understand that God is a personal God that not only hears our prayers, but we can also hear His voice.

## MATERIALS

- Recording with different sounds
- Charts to illustrate the Bible lesson
- Costume for the character you will represent

## PRAISE TIME

The children will listen to some recordings with sounds of birds, sound of wind, sound of water (brook, sea, etc.), sounds which imitates those animals make to communicate. They will be guided to reflect on the ways that are not consistent, in which nature praise the Creator.

The children will be motivated to express the different ways in which human beings in a consistent and intended way could praise God. Son children will be invited to praise God through a musical instrument, a song, a poem, etc.

## INTRODUCTION

I know that it is simple for you to understand that when you pray God hears you, but maybe it is not so easy to understand how it is that when you pray you can also hear God's voice.

I believe that at this very moment you are thinking: “I have never heard the voice of God”, I don’t know if it is sharp or deep, if it is soft or rough, right? Let us do the following experiment so you could better understand how God makes us listen to His voice.

(Ask the father of one of the children to hide in the pastoral room but that he listens to what is being said in the church. Tell his child to come up front and tell him that even though his Father is not present he could speak to him and ask him something; give him a few ideas of what to ask. It could be: Dad do you think I could sleep at my friends house tonight? Or, do you think it is good for my health to eat candies or a nice salad tonight for supper? Or, Juan is a boy in my school who always say mean things to me, and I feel like hitting him sometimes, do you think I should do that? The Father will write the answers on a paper and someone will bring it to the child and will say: “Your dad said that:... and you will tell him the answers according to each question. (The teacher continues with the reflection)

Dear children, many times that is how we listen to the voice of God. When we pray asking for something He answers us through the Bible that is why it is important to read it. Other times God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit and this is more or less how it is: when you pray because you have a problem and so not know what to do, God puts in your mind what you have to do through the Holy Spirit that is the voice of God! Other times when you are afraid or sad and you pray, and you immediately feel peace and the fright is gone, that is also the voice of God. Isn’t that marvelous! And many times God speaks to us through the voice of another person, of good persons, like your parents, your teachers, and the pastor, who you should obey. Do you understand now how God speaks to us?

## **REPRESENTATION**

### **(A father will come out representing Eli)**

But it is not impossible for someone to be so close to God and cannot hear his real voice. Remember children that some days ago we reflected on the story of Hannah, the woman that came to the temple sad and worried because she could not have a baby, and that I thought was drunk? Remember the marvelous way also how God answered her prayer giving her a beautiful baby who she called Samuel? Well today I will talk to you about that extraordinary child, who when he was still very small was taken to the temple and placed to the service of God just like how his mother had promised. Samuel was a child who walked so close to God that he could hear His voice.

## **BIBLE LESSON**

When he was just a little boy Samuel gave his service in the temple. He helped the priest Eli selflessly and with care, doing his work with responsibility and much care. He knew that the temple was God's dwelling place, the house of the Most High, that is why he tried hard to do the work the best he could and he behaved with reverence while he did his work. Although the work was simple he did it with solemnity and with joy.

I would like to imagine that many hours while other children were playing, Samuel stayed complying with his duties in the house of God and I also think that he never grumbled about what he did, because what happened to him after was a great act that not any one could experience, only someone who has a very close experience with God.

One night when Samuel was sleeping he was awoken by a voice that called his name. How would you feel if something like that would happen to you? Wait for the children to give some answers... I am sure you would think that mom or dad is calling, right? Something similar happened to Samuel. He got up in a hurry and ran to the place where Eli the priest was sleeping, thinking that he needed a special favor. Even though it is not polite for someone to wake you at midnight, Samuel went willingly and courteously to where he was called and ask: Eli, did you call me? Do you want me to do something for you? The priest half sleeping recognized that he did not call Samuel so he sent the child back to bed.

When this happened for the third time, Eli sensed that the voice that Samuel heard was the voice of God. What a privilege! A call from God for a child! It was then that Samuel by the counsel of Eli answered quickly to the voice of the Lord. "Speak Lord for your servant is listening", was his humble answer. From that day until his death Samuel and God maintained a relationship as companions that will surely last through eternity, when Samuel will be raised in the second coming and will be taken to the Holy Land to live with God forever.

## **APPEAL**

You are also special to God, and can also hear His voice calling you to His service. Even though you are small he wants to use you, guide you and take care of you the same way He did with Samuel. Never feel alone, and when that occurs never doubt to pray and wait so that through the Holy Spirit, or through the reading of the Bible or the words of a person who loves you, you could hear His voice. He loves you more than you could imagine and His eyes are on you, ready to take care of you and guide you wherever you go. Prayer is the most efficient way to walk close to God.

## **CRAFT WORK**

Infants will color the page that corresponds to the lesson for this day and repeat the memory verse.

Early Teens will resolve the Bible exercise that corresponds to the Bible lesson for this day.

**Memory verse:** “The Lord came and stood there calling: Samuel, Samuel, and then Samuel said: Speak, for your servant is listening”. 1 Samuel 3:10

## **MOMENTS OF PRAYER**

The children will be guided in general prayer by the PATOR OF ELDER INCHARGED OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRY. (A consecration prayer for the children)

## **CLOSING**

Theme Song

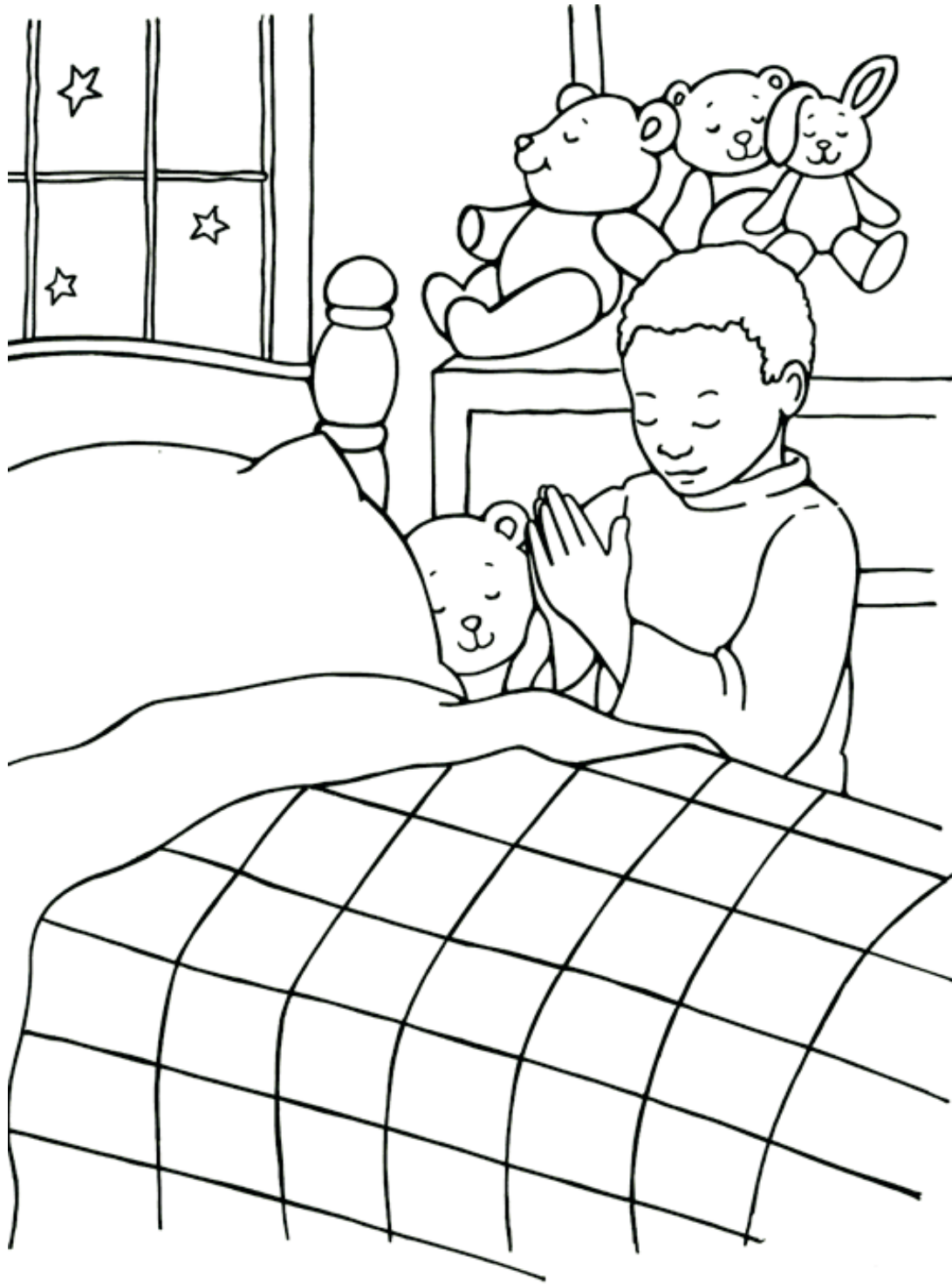
# **WORK SHEETS**

## **INFANTS**





When I pray, I talk to God



When I pray, God hears me



When I pray, God answers me



When I pray, God helps me



When I pray, God pardons me



**When I pray, I enjoy God's company**



When I pray, I can hear the voice of God

**WORK SHEETS**

**EARLY TEENS**



**“This is the confidence we have in approaching God, that if we ask anything according to His will, He will hear us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we ask of Him”. 1 John 5:14, 15**

**Eli**

**Samuel**

**Gold**

**Listen**

**Prayer**

**Faith**

**Petition**

**Confidence**

**Priest**

**“And before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear”. Isaiah 65:24**

Write the right words in the squares below basing on the form of the letters that comprises the word.

**God**

**YES**

**answer**

**wait**

**NO**

**Joseph**

**brothers**

**jail**

**slaves**

**Jacob**

“But all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice, let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them”.

Psalm 5:11

Put the letters in order and discover what is found hiding and gives reference to the lesson for today.

1. joreeci \_\_\_\_\_
2. Uals \_\_\_\_\_
3. Hliispinest \_\_\_\_\_
4. Ligotha \_\_\_\_\_
5. Vidad \_\_\_\_\_
6. Ignls tohs \_\_\_\_\_
7. Rorma \_\_\_\_\_
8. Ationjubil \_\_\_\_\_
9. Natig \_\_\_\_\_
10. Phderhes \_\_\_\_\_

Rejoice    Saul    Philistines    Goliath    David

Sling Shot    Armor    Jubilation    Giant

Pastor

“If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray; then I will hear them from heaven and will forgive their sins...” 2 chronicles 7:14

**Complete the phrase according to what you have studied in today’s lesson.**

1. Samuel told the people: If you return to the Lord with all your \_\_\_\_\_ He will free you from the Philistines.
2. The people of Israel called to God with a loud voice saying: “We have \_\_\_\_\_ against God.”
3. Samuel was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel.
4. God sent messages of warning to the people of Israel through \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Israelites had idols of pagan gods which they called \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

In your own words, tell what happened when the people if Israel asked God to pardon their sins.

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What is God’s promise for you, if you confess your sins?

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“And Enoch walked with God, and he was no more because God took him away”. Genesis 5:24

Find the following words:

**Enoch**

**Prayer**

**Heaven**

**Martha**

**Friendship**

**Maria**

**Friends**

**Disappeared**

**“And the Lord came and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered: Speak for thy servant is listening”.**

**1 Samuel 3:10**

1. According to the study of this lesson, mention 3 ways how we could hear the voice of God.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. Answer True or False

- Prayer is like speaking to a friend \_\_\_\_\_
- Only consecrated adults prayers are heard by God \_\_\_\_\_
- The prayers of Children are always heard by God \_\_\_\_\_
- God comes close to us when we pray \_\_\_\_\_
- God always answers all of our prayers \_\_\_\_\_