

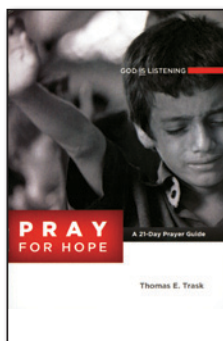
**Additional Prayer
Resources**



**Week of Prayer
Poster**



**Week of Prayer
Bookmark**



Pray for Hope Booklet

Jesus Prays for Others, and We Can Too!

Lesson Objective:

The students will learn about two groups of people that Jesus prayed for: people who believed in Him and people who needed to believe in Him.

Memory Verse: Luke 19:10

"The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (KJV).

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (NIV).

Introduction

As the students arrive, offer them a selection of snacks or small toys to enjoy for a couple of minutes as class begins. Tell the class that everyone will get something.

Getting Started

Ask: Can you tell me about a time when you helped someone? Maybe you helped your mom with a chore around the house, or perhaps you helped a friend find something she had lost. When we help someone, it makes everyone happy. The person needing help is glad for the assistance. And we feel good about doing something nice for someone. One of the best ways we can help each other is by praying. Jesus set a good example by doing this. Today we will talk about two groups of people that Jesus prayed for: His friends and people who need to believe in Him.

Ask: What kinds of things should we pray about? (*Invite responses.*) Let's take a few minutes to focus on some of those things.

Jesus Prayed for His Friends

Ask for three volunteers to read the following paragraphs, which outline John 17:1–26. One volunteer will read each of the first three paragraphs alone, then the three will read the fourth paragraph together.

- Not long before Jesus was arrested and died, He prayed, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:1–3).

Continued on Page 2

- Then Jesus prayed for His friends, the people who already believed in Him: “Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. . . . My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. . . . As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world” (John 17:11,12,15,16,18).
- Then Jesus prayed for those who were not believers, but would become believers in the future: “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:20,21).
- Then Jesus finished by praying for both believers and those who were going to believe in the future: “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them” (John 17:24–26).

Ask: What was about to happen to Jesus when He said these prayers? (*Jesus was soon going to be arrested, tried, and crucified on a cross.*)

Ask: What two groups of people did Jesus pray for? (*Jesus prayed for believers as well as people who would become believers in the future.*)

Ask: What was Jesus’ prayer for believers? (*Jesus prayed that God the Father would protect them from evil.*)

Ask: What was Jesus’ prayer for those who would believe in the future? (*Jesus prayed that they would have unity with Him and other believers.*)

Say: God wants us to pray for each other, just like we pray for ourselves. When we do, we can pray for Christian friends, people who are in trouble or are having a hard time, people who don’t believe in Jesus, and lots of other people as well.

Praying for Others

Have students suggest some things they can pray about for their friends.

- A friend has been sick for over a week, and she doesn’t seem to be getting much better.
- A friend is having a really tough time in math class. Even though he studies really hard, his grades aren’t getting better. He doesn’t know what to do next.
- A friend at school doesn’t believe in Jesus.
- All our friends need help to make good choices that keep us safe, honor our parents, and are pleasing to Jesus.
- All our friends who believe in Jesus need to become more like Jesus every day.

Say: The writers of the New Testament often told people that they were praying for them and what it was they were praying about. We can pray these Bible prayers for our friends, too. We can also tell our friends that we are praying for them. (*Demonstrate Bible prayers for your students by reading the following verses, then creating a prayer from each on your own. If you are able, consider making the prayers specific to students in your class. For example, on Romans 15:5 you might pray: “God, please give _____ encouragement and help him to never give up on following You.”*)

Continued on Page 3

- Romans 15:5
- Romans 15:6
- Romans 15:13
- Ephesians 1:17
- Ephesians 1:18–20
- Philippians 1:9–11
- Philemon 6
- 3 John 2

Live God's Word

Have students make a list of friends they can pray for, including specific things they can mention in their prayers. Encourage them to try to think of specific prayer requests, then put their lists in a place where they can see the lists and remember to pray.

Ask: What are some specific times when you can pray for your friends? (*Answers can include when we get up in the morning, before we go to bed, at meals, and at church.*)

Say: We can easily say short prayers in our mind throughout the day. Remember, it doesn't take big, complicated words or thoughts to pray. There's no mysterious formula for prayer, either. God just wants to hear from us. And since He hears our thoughts, we don't always need to pray out loud or even in complete sentences. We can talk to God like we talk to our parents or to a friend. There will always be times for longer prayers with other people. But prayer can happen in our heart any time we want.

Ask: Why is it good sometimes to pray with others? (*Our faith gets stronger when we believe with others, it makes us feel closer to each other, and we*

can find out what others are going through when we pray with them—helping us pray for them even more later. These are just some reasons why the Bible tells us to pray with each other.)

Closing Activities

Memory Verse

Say: Jesus came to save all people from their sins. They are lost because of sin. (*Write the words to the memory verse on index cards, one word per card. Scramble the cards, then have students work together to put the cards in correct order.*)

"The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10, KJV).

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10, NIV).

Making Jesus Our Savior

Say: Jesus prayed with His friends. He also prayed for all people who would become believers in the future. He wants all people to believe in Him as the Savior and Leader of their life. (*Give students an opportunity to respond to a call to accept Jesus as Savior and Leader of their life. Pray with those who respond.*)

Where Can I Pray?

Give each student a piece of paper and some colored pencils or markers. Have them draw pictures of places where they can pray. Encourage them to be creative, and emphasize that prayer is something we can do anywhere we are at any time of the day or night.

Prepared by the Assemblies of God National Prayer Center
www.prayer.ag.org

Adapted in part from material in the Spring 2007 Middler Teacher Guide, Unit 1, Lesson 2.

© 2011 by Gospel Publishing House, 1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802.
All rights reserved. Permission to copy for personal, church, and/or educational use only.
Not intended for commercial redistribution. Electronic edition published 2011.

KJV refers to the King James Version of the Bible.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL
VERSION® . NIV® . COPYRIGHT © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica,
Inc.™. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.