

Pray-er

CONCEPT

God gives everyone in His kingdom, including children, a part to play in His Mission to reach the unreached and bring glory to Him. The role of the Pray-er is to pray for unreached people locally and around the world, as well as for those sharing God's love with them.

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 9:37-38

KEY VERSE: "He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.'" (NLT)

PLANNING AHEAD*

Lesson Supplies

Introduction:

- Six-roles wall hanging

Lesson:

- "Pray-er" symbol poster, 1/class

Learning Activity #2:

- Praising God from A-Z poster

Learning Activity #3:

- Giving flyer

Learning Activity #4:

- Fabric world map
- Masking tape
- Pennies, 2/classroom

Craft Supplies

Activity Stations:

- Origami booklet instructions, 3/class
- Various colors of copy paper, 1 sheet/student
- Prayer Partners Prayer Requests, 1/student
- Stickers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers

* **Teachers please note:** For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag. **Items followed by an asterisk* are to be supplied by the teaching team.**

LESSON PLAN

SET UP	Before class – Hang the “Pray-er” symbol poster for the children to see as they arrive.
INCORPORATION – 15 MIN	<p>ACTIVITY STATIONS</p> <p>Craft – Pray for the World Origami Booklet Instructions: See attached instructions for how to fold the paper to make the booklet. Have the students make each fold sharp by running their fingernail or something on the fold. There will be eight pages, including the front and back. The students write the title on the front page, then cut out the prayer requests for each day of the week and glue them to the remaining seven pages. They can make their book unique by decorating with stickers, markers, etc.</p> <p>Pray-ers are people who talk to God. A Pray-er is a person who prays for the needs of others here and around the world. They pray for the unreached peoples of the world, missionaries and their families. Unreached peoples are those who have not yet heard about Jesus and do not have a Bible in their language or a church to tell them about Him. There are many unreached people right here in Columbus, as well as many Christians who are showing them God’s love, who need your prayers. You can take your prayer booklet home and use it to pray every day for something different.</p>
INTRODUCTION – LG GROUP 5 MIN	<p>Okay kids, it is missions week! We are continuing our great adventure called “God’s Glory Shining Through!” And God wants to shine through you! Do you remember the six roles we talked about last time? (Hold up the six- roles wall hanging.) We learned about six ways we could be a part of God’s plan to reach people all over the world so they could get to know Him.</p> <p>In Eph. 2:10, it says: "God created us to do good works, which He has prepared for us to do." God has work for us to do in helping to share Christ with the "unreached peoples." An "unreached" person is someone who has not heard about Jesus. Many unreached peoples live where there aren’t many Christians or churches, not many Bibles in their language and not many missionaries to tell the people about Jesus. We have a wonderful opportunity right here in Columbus with unreached peoples. Many students come from unreached countries to study in Columbus. Many refugees are forced to move here from unreached countries. There are unreached peoples all around us!</p> <p>As Christians, we have a <u>BIG</u> job to do. God wants <u>US</u> to send missionaries to these unreached peoples all over the world, including Columbus. He wants <u>US</u> to translate the Bible into their language. He wants <u>US</u> to help them build churches. He wants <u>US</u> to show them God’s love by the way we love them. He wants <u>US</u> to do everything possible to reach these people for Christ and train them to grow as believers to the point where they can lead their own people and churches.</p> <p>God wants you to be a part of this! There are lots of ways God can work through us. For example, you may really be interested in doing a specific role; it may sound exciting to you or you feel that it is very important in reaching others for Christ. If you find a role that you really want to do, this is probably God telling you that you could focus on this role and do it for him.</p>
LESSON – LG GROUP 10 MIN	<p>MUSIC</p> <p>Today we are going to talk some more about the role of a Pray-er. (Hold up the "Pray-er" symbol poster.) This picture stands for the role of the Pray-er. What do you see behind the praying hands? Yes, you see the world. What does this picture tell you about someone who is a “Pray-er” in the area of missions? Yes, it tells you that they pray for the needs of others around the world. They pray for the unreached peoples, the missionaries and their families. I have a question for you. Can people who live in Columbus be a missionary? (Yes.) Why?</p>

	<p>(There are many, many people from different countries and different cultures here in Columbus and more are arriving every day. Anyone who befriends and shares Christ love with these people is a missionary.)</p> <p>Remember our verse for today, “He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.'”</p> <p>Below are 3 different stories of the result of prayer. Consider which 1-2 would be best to share with your class.</p>
<p>LEARNING ACTIVITY #1 – LG GROUP 10 MIN</p>	<p>OBJECT LESSON #1</p> <p>Story of Hope Smith – A Pray-er in Action</p> <p>I would like to read you a story about Hope Smith, a nine-year-old girl who was a Pray-er. How old are you guys? This is a true story, which will show what can happen when we pray for unreached people even though they are far away.</p> <p>When Hope Smith was researching a report on Mongolia for a school project, one fact about that country really moved her. In a mission’s magazine, Hope read that in Mongolia there were very few Bibles and that instead of worshiping God, the people knelt at Buddhist alters in their tents. The fact that almost all of the Mongolians were spiritually lost touched Hope’s heart and she began praying.</p> <p>Hope prayed that God would replace the Buddhist altars with Bibles and send more missionaries to share the gospel of Christ. But she didn’t stop with a one-time prayer. Hope faithfully prayed every day for this country and its people.</p> <p>After two years of prayer, Hope read another article in the same magazine; this one entitled “Hope for Mongolia.” It described a revival in that country, with 500 people accepting Jesus as their Savior. Hope felt this was God’s way of saying He had answered her prayer. During the next year the number of Mongolian believers grew from 500 to 1000 and the people started a church called “Hope Assembly.” I’m sure that God had other people praying for the Mongolians, too. But God was so good to show Hope and us, too, that He hears the prayers of children. God showed Hope that her prayers changed lives for Him. Some people think kids can’t really do important things until they are adults, but we know that’s not true and you can really make a difference right now.</p> <p>Letter from Pam – 2 stories</p> <p>I have a short letter to read from Pam, a Xenos missionary in Southeast Asia for a long time. She wanted to share two stories about how prayer helped reach people who didn’t know Jesus. (You may need to shorten them or only have time for one story, but don’t forget her point at the end.)</p> <p>Story I: Our family had totally used up all of the extra cash supporting poor children to pay for school, as school is not free. One morning, my husband says to me on the way out the door a very odd thing, “we don’t have any more money to help any other children this year with school fees.” I thought this was odd because it was the middle of the year, months past the usual time to sign up or request money.</p>

That morning a woman came to our home. I'll call her Nina. She needed money for school fees and had letters from the school. Nina asked for help to pay for 3 months of late fees. Of course I remembered what my husband had said and I told her that we had no more money to help her, but I knew someone who could help her. I told her about God's love and power. I prayed out loud for her in the name of Jesus to give her the funds that she needed. Off she went carrying her only her letters.

The next day I got an e-mail from my mother-in-law's prayer group that said they had been praying for us. They were lead to collect money from the group by passing a hat. Of course, I immediately remembered the prayer for Nina. The amount of money was not for 3 months of school fees but the exact the amount to pay for the entire school year for Nina's child. You can imagine my joy! I couldn't wait to tell Nina and went right to the school and paid for the entire school year! I also loved letting the ladies group know how God used them to draw Nina toward the Kingdom of God.

Story II: Our family had the amazing privilege to have a small group of people in the our home town called by God to pray for us. They would meet every month at a home, call us to get prayer requests and then pray for us. This went on for 15 years! Every month! We were carried through the years by their constant prayers. In times of sorrow their prayers lifted our spirits, in times of success, their prayers glorified God and we rejoiced together, in times of uncertainty their prayers gave us courage and faith. No prayers are left unheard and unanswered. All prayers matter!

A gal, Ellen, in the prayer group was called to pray for a 14-year-old girl, Rita (not her real name). Rita was very bright, very poor and extremely close to our family. Rita was experiencing the love of God through our family and was growing in her openness to the gospel. Then one day she made a terrible choice and her life changed forever. She had to quit school and begin living an adult life at the age of 14. Rita was so ashamed and so devastated that she had difficulty showing her face outside of her home. For years, our family still extended love and acceptance to Rita. But when Ellen would call and ask about Rita, the answer was always the same, month after month, year after year. Rita is still depressed and has made no advancement toward the gospel. Ellen kept praying for Rita. Just two hours before we moved from our home to the USA, Rita came to visit to say goodbye. She also prayed and accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior.

If you had time, I could spend the rest of my life telling you stories like these. Praying is my favorite thing to do. Make it yours!

**LEARNING ACTIVITY
#2 – LG GROUP
10 MIN**

OBJECT LESSON #2

God's Glory Shining Through!

What a cool story! Isn't God Awesome?! It's good for us to think about how powerful and wonderful God is because it helps us know Him better. And as we realize how amazing He is we want everyone to know how amazing He is. This is why we pray for others to know God, not because it's what God says we should do, but it's because when we realize how great God is, we want to tell others about Him. We want God to receive the glory He deserves. As more and more people praise God, He gets the glory He deserves.

Let's talk more about why God should get the glory and praise He deserves.

Hold up the A-Z poster for the students to see.

This poster has the ABCs listed. We're going to fill in one word for each letter to describe a character of God. We're not going to do it all today! But I'm sure that by the end of the year we'll be able to come up with a word for each letter; then we'll have 26 words that help describe how great and awesome God is. It's good for us to think about how powerful and wonderful God is because it helps us know Him better and to know there has never been and will never be anyone as amazing as Him.

Today we're just going to do the first four letters. I'd like you to go home and think about the words that we talk about. If you do not have a friendship with God, think about these words and pray to him. Ask him to show you if He really is as cool as these words say He is.

Okay, the first word begins with an "A." What would be a good word that describes God that begins with an "A?" (Let the students guess.)

How about the word Almighty (All Powerful works, too.) God is Almighty! What does this really mean if we think about it for a bit? God says He can do anything. He wants us to trust in that. He really did raise Jesus from the dead. God is the only one who can do that. No matter how much doctors and scientists try, they cannot bring someone back from the dead. Remember, Jesus was dead 3 days, not 5 minutes. He was really dead. And why did Jesus have to die? (Allow students to answer.) This is something else that shows how Almighty and All Powerful God is. He is so worthy of all our praise!

How about "B?" God gives us lots of good things. Sometimes we say He gives us... (help the kids fill in the blank). How about The Blessing Giver? A blessing is a good thing God gives us or does for us. What's the biggest blessing that God gave us? (Forgiveness, eternal life forever with Him.) But God gives us so much more! Everything we have and all that we receive in the future is because God has given it to us. Think about someone you really love or something really great that happened to you. God gave that to you! If you need something, ask God for it in prayer. Wait for His answer. Look for His answer. He will answer you. Talk to a friend or a loved one and tell them what you've asked God for. They will help point it out when God has answered your prayer.

Next is the letter "C." Since God made the universe, what is He called? He's our Creator. God made everything in the world, including us. He certainly deserves our praise for that. Do you ever thank God for creating you and your family and friends? What other things did God create that we can be thankful for?

Last is the letter "D." The letter "D" stands for Deliverer from Sin. What do I mean when I say "sin?" (Let students answer.) Can anyone tell me how God delivers me from sin? (Let students answer, but help clarify if needed. This means that even though we have sinned and God can't accept us and is not even able to look at sin, He loves us enough that he sent His Son to earth to die for each of us – to pay for all of our sins. This is how He delivered each of us from sin.) The other thing we need to do is to ask for Jesus' death to take care of our sins. God's gift to us is allowing His Son to die for us so we can spend eternity with Him in heaven. This is certainly something to share with our friends.

LEARNING ACTIVITY
#3 – SM GROUPS
10 MIN

Current Giving Campaign:

Remind the children about the current giving campaign. (Refer to parent flyer.) Praise and encourage the children for their generosity and the impact it will have on the children who benefit from this.

SMALL GROUP – Discussion

	<p>Why is it important to pray?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God asks us to pray. • God hears and answers our prayers. Our prayers make a big difference. • It is the first important step to reaching the unreached. As we pray, God's Spirit shows others they need Jesus. <p>What is the difference between praying for your friends and for unreached people groups?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your friends can hear about Jesus through you, others and the Bible. • Most unreached people do not have a way to hear that Jesus loves them. You can play an exciting part in praying that God will send someone to tell them! <p>Does God care about our prayers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES, He does! Because we are His children, He cares very much about what is on our hearts. He loves us and wants to know us. He always answers our prayers. Sometimes He says yes, sometimes He says no. But He always says yes when we ask Him to help people know about Him. <p>What about this role of being a pray-er? Do any of you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enjoy praying for others? • believe God will answer your prayers? • believe God will help the missionaries when you pray for them? • believe God will speak to the unreached people when you pray? • have a burden or concern in your heart when you hear of needs? • look for things to pray for? <p>Chances are no one in here feels like they are good at all of these. But a Pray-er believes that prayer is important and is confident God will answer prayers. Remember our verse for today, "He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.'"</p>
<p>LEARNING ACTIVITY #4 – LG GROUP 7 MIN</p>	<p>Prayer</p> <p>Countries in the 10/40 Window Instructions: Lay the fabric map on the floor. Explain to students what the 10/40 window is. Show them where the equator is, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres and identify latitude (the equator is 0° latitude) and longitude (longitude is vertical) measurements. We call this the 10/40 window. The 10/40 Window is an area of the world where most of the unreached peoples (those who have never heard of Jesus) live. The area extends from 10 degrees latitude north to 40 degrees latitude north of the equator, and stretches from North Africa across to China. There aren't many Christians or churches there, not many Bibles in the languages the people understand, and not many missionaries to tell the people about Jesus. It is also the area where the people of the world live with the greatest needs – poverty, illiteracy, disease, etc.</p> <p>Game directions: Divide in two teams. Mark a line with masking tape for the students to stand behind. Have them take turns throwing a penny to try and hit a country in the 10/40 window. If they land on one, they get to write that country's name on the board under their team's name. The team with the most countries wins.</p>

Additional quotes on prayer:

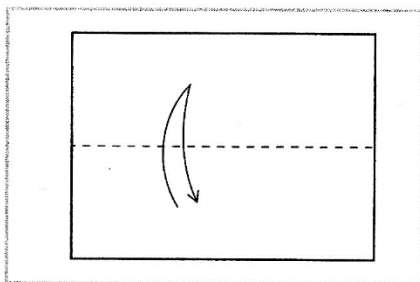
Why is intercession in prayer so important? Because God works through human agency, and human agency begins with prayer. Hudson Taylor stated that "It is possible to move men, through God, by prayer alone."

Oswald Sanders wrote that: "The goal of prayer is the ear of God. Prayer influences men by influencing God to influence them. It is not the prayer that moves men, but the God to whom we pray."

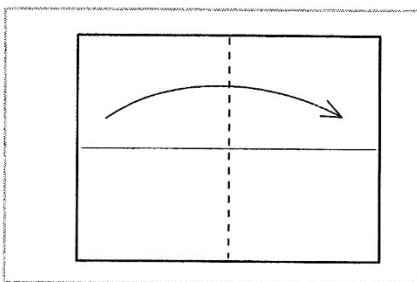
Lesson 9

How to Make an Itty-Bitty Book

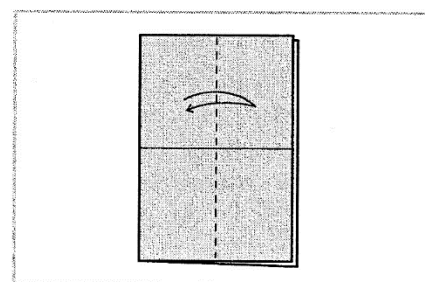
1 Cut out the book pattern on page 32 and place it facedown with the ★ in the upper left corner. Or use a rectangular sheet, and place it horizontally, facedown. Fold the paper in half, top to bottom. Crease and unfold.



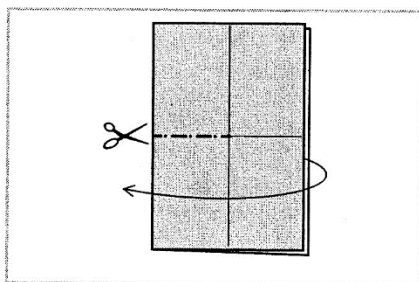
2 Fold in half, left to right. Crease it sharply, and leave it folded.



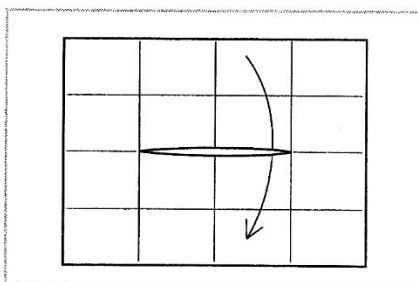
3 Fold again in the same direction. Unfold this last step.



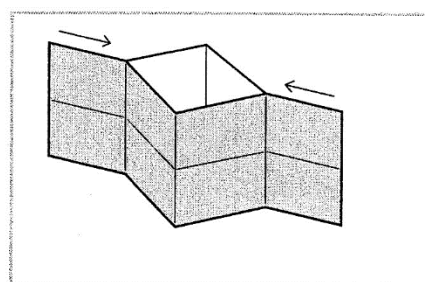
4 Cut in from the left side to the center, following the cut line. Make sure to stop at the middle crease. Open the whole sheet.



5 Fold in half top to bottom, so that the two long edges meet.



6 Push the two outer edges in, so that the slit opens and the inner pages are formed. Crease the edges of all pages to make the book.



7 Design your book!

