

The Rock, Sunday 25th October 2020

Pray, pray, pray.

Warm up

Dance to, join in with the actions and sing our Rock song.

This video has the words:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcAG4PbNXaA>

This video has the actions: <https://youtu.be/8dbOgbRxC1M>



Getting started

Equipment

A large number of wooden sticks. You could use pencils if you prefer.

The sticks are dropped from a height of about 30 cm onto the table, where they should scatter slightly.



Each child takes it in turn to pick up one of the sticks from the pile. If one of the other sticks moves, that child's turn finishes and the next player has a go. When you get one stick without moving any others, you have another go, and keep on removing sticks until you make a mistake.

The winner is the one to have removed most sticks without shaking any of the

remaining sticks.

The Point: Just for fun.

Teaching time

Equipment

A square of card and some pens.

Ask the children if any of them pray at night? What sort of things do they pray about?

What do they pray for?

Ask if any of them have been praying for something for a long time? How does it feel?

Sometimes we feel like giving up. Sometimes we feel like God isn't listening. But he is! God hears every prayer and he always answers.

Say that Jesus told a story to show that we shouldn't stop praying.

The drawing in this activity can be done by the children or by you.

Draw a square on the card. This is your house. It is a small house with one room. Everyone goes to bed together, on the living room floor. (Draw a family of people lying down.)

One night, someone starts knocking on the door. It is a neighbour and he needs bread. There are no shops – you are the only one who can give him bread, but it means getting out of bed and climbing over your sleeping family. What do you do? You decide to stay in bed, but your friend keeps knocking. He keeps calling, asking for bread.



Ask the children how the family in bed feel about the knocking?

How does the man who is knocking feel? Does he feel like giving up?

(Add annoyed faces to the family laying down, and a worried face on the man at the door.)

In the end, you get so annoyed that you give in. You get up and you give your friend some bread... and finally he stops bothering you!

Ask the children how the neighbour feels?

Why doesn't he give up and go away?

Say that the neighbour in the parable is like us. Sometimes we feel as if God isn't listening to us because we pray for the same thing over and over again; sometimes we feel like giving up. But God always listens, and he always answers our prayers.

The Point: To tell and explain the parable.

Craft and activity ideas

1.

Equipment

Two sheets of A5 card (or thick paper) per child. Glue, pens, post-it notes.

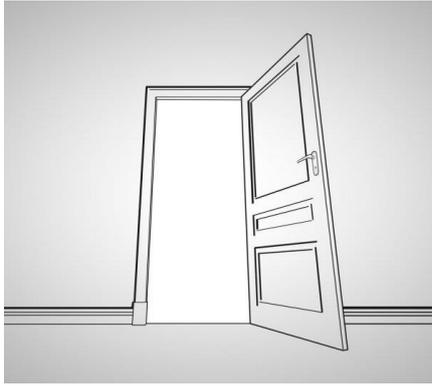
Each child will need 2 pieces of paper; one is the background and one the door.

The door will need to be in the middle of the paper, and will need to be opened and shut.

Leaving a 2-3 cm. border, cut up about 10 cm on one side of the door and then cut across until you reach your border. Use a ruler to make a straight fold down the door's second (hinged) side so that the door will open and shut.

The children will need to stick their doorway onto a second piece of paper, preferably the same colour.

They can use pens to decorate their doors – maybe adding a handle, or wood grain, or just crazy colour.



Give each child a post-it note. Explain that if you have something you want to pray about, you can write it on the post it note and stick it on the paper behind the door. Every night, open the door and pray for this thing – hopefully this visual will remind them of today’s teaching and give them more faith as they pray.

You could suggest that as each prayer gets answered they keep the post it in a box, and then they will have a growing pile of things they can remember God has done for them.

The Point: To create a reminder craft this can be used in personal prayer.

2.

Equipment

Paper, wax candles, thin paint and brushes.

Using the end of a wax candle, write “Ask God” on a sheet of paper. After writing, they can make dots and squiggles, or stars, around their paper.

Now take some paint and paint over the whole sheet of paper. The paint will not stick to the paper on top of the wax, and the children will reveal their message.

The Point: To create a craft with which to remember today’s session.

.Prayer

Equipment

A door, post it notes, pens.

Have a door which no one is likely to be opening (such as a cupboard door), and nominate it as the Prayer Door. You may like to put battery operated tea lights in front of it as a symbol of God’s presence.

If the children have something that they want to pray for - and especially if it is an ongoing situation – give them the opportunity to write their prayer on a post it and stick it on the wall (folded if they want privacy). When they finish praying, knock on the door.

The Point: To give an opportunity for the children to pray independently.



THE ROCK

(Material taken from Energize by Urban Saints - <https://www.energize.uk.net/>)

