

ROCK SOLID LESSON 3

MAIN FOCUS

Prayer is a great way for us to talk to God and let Him talk to us!

POWER VERSE

*"Keep On Praying."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

BIG IDEA

*"Every Day, When I Pray, I Know
God Hears What I Say!"*

Leader's Info

So often children are intimidated by the idea of praying to an Almighty God. They think they don't have the right words to say. Sometimes they even think they are not worthy to talk to God.

Too often, people buy into the lie that God doesn't really hear us when we pray. They believe that God is not interested in our everyday lives.

In this lesson, we will discuss how we can pray with confidence in knowing that God hears us when we pray. Not only does He hear us, but He will answer.

We don't have to pray fancy prayers with big words. We simply talk to God like we would our best friend. He is excited to hear from His children.

★ **INTRO VIDEO**
"WHAT IS PRAYER?"

★ **PUPPET SKIT**
"PRAYER DOESN'T WORK"

★ **OFFERING TIME**

★ **PRAISE SONGS**

★ **GAME TIME**
"BELIEVE IT OR NOT"

★ **POWER VERSE**
*"KEEP ON PRAYING."
- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17*

★ **WORSHIP SONGS**

★ **ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE**
"ANYBODY OUT THERE?"

★ **"RAP IT UP" VIDEO**

★ **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

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"RAP IT UP" VIDEO

REVIEW QUESTIONS

ORDER OF SERVICE

1. _____
by _____
2. _____
by _____
3. _____
by _____
4. _____
by _____
5. _____
by _____
6. _____
by _____
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by _____
8. _____
by _____
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11. _____
by _____
12. _____
by _____
13. _____
by _____
14. _____
by _____
15. _____
by _____
16. _____
by _____
17. _____
by _____

ROCK SOLID LESSON 3

PUPPET SKIT

Character: Silly Willy is a hyperactive puppet that thrives on “scaring” the leaders/workers. *(You can use any puppet your kids are familiar with in your services.)*

Leader: What a cool subject to be talking about today, kids. Prayer is a really awesome...

(Silly Willy makes noise by the puppet stage until finally the leader goes to check it out. Then, Silly Willy pops up and scares the leader and laughs about it.)

Leader: Silly Willy! I can't believe you scared me like that!

Silly Willy: Me neither! You fall for that every time!

Leader: Well, not every time.

Silly Willy: Oh, yes, you do! Hey, kids, does she fall for it every time or what? (kids respond) See?

Leader: Well, OK, so maybe I do. But, I'm glad you're here today because we are talking about something very important this week.

Silly Willy: Oh, cool! I love new stuff! So, what is it?

Leader: Prayer.

Silly Willy: Prayer? Now, why you wanna be wasting your time on that?

Leader: What are you talking about?

Silly Willy: I got it all figured out! You don't have to pray anymore. You know, praying is a lot of work. You gotta get down on your knees, you gotta say all these big words, you gotta do it like every day. I got a new way to get the answers in my life that works so much better!

Leader: What's that?

Silly Willy: This! (pulls out a “Magic 8-Ball”) All I have to do is ask it a question and it gives me the answer. No getting on my knees, no big fancy words, nothing. Watch this! *(asks a couple stupid questions and gets stupid answers)*. Fine, then. I got another way that's even easier than that!

Leader: *(skeptical)* And what's that?

Silly Willy: When I need to get answers for my life, I just have to go eat some egg rolls.

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ROCK SOLID LESSON 3

PUPPET SKIT (CONTINUED)

Leader: Egg rolls? How does eating egg rolls give you answers for your life?

Silly Willy: It's not the egg rolls themselves, girl. It's after the egg rolls, when they bring the fortune cookie. Then, I get the answers. *(pulls out a fortune cookie)* See, here's the answer to all my problems right here. *(opens the fortune cookie and reads it)* "Confucious say: Don't eat yellow snow." Oh, you know that is important. Yellow snow means an animal has been by there and done their business. You don't wanna eat that snow.

Leader: *(interrupting)* Silly Willy, this is ridiculous. Now, are you ready to listen to me?

Silly Willy: I guess so.

Leader: Listen, all this stuff doesn't bring answers to your life or fix your problems or anything. If you want to know God's plan for your life, if you want Him to heal you, to deliver you, to change you. You have to talk to Him and pray. Prayer is the only thing that works. Not the Magic 8 Ball and not the fortune cookie. There's no substitute for prayer.

Silly Willy: But, it's so hard to pray. I don't know if I can do it.

Leader: Silly Willy, it is not as hard as you think. All you have to do is talk to God like you would your best friend. Talk to Him just like you are talking to me. It's that simple. He cares about you, and what's on your heart.

Silly Willy: Man, I sure was messed up with all this other stuff, huh? I am glad you fixed me. You know, I need to go pray right now.

Leader: I think you are right.

Silly Willy: See you later!

ROCK SOLID LESSON 3

GAME TIME

"Believe It Or Not!"

Items Needed For Game: Data Disc

Setup: Open Data Disc to the PowerPoint presentation titled "Lesson Three"; start with the slide titled "Believe It Or Not!"



How To Play: Choose three boys and three girls to compete. Each slide has a goofy statement that may be true (or false). The first one to "buzz in" and get the answer correct gets a point. If a contestant buzzes in first, but gets it wrong, the other team gets a point. The team to earn the most points during the game wins.

At the end of the game say, *"You know boys and girls, in life we have to make a lot of choices. We have to choose what's going to be important in our lives. Whatever we choose to make important, that's what is going to get done. Just like in this game, we had to choose whether or not to believe the statement. In life, we have to choose whether or not we will make prayer a priority in our lives. We MUST make the right choice. Prayer works! God wants to hear and answer our prayers. Make the right choice. Choose to make prayer the number one priority in your life."*

ROCK SOLID LESSON 3

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

"ANYBODY OUT THERE?"

Materials Needed: The Data CD; The DVD; a cell phone; two "Biblical" costumes; two actors to play the parts of the Pharisee and the tax collector

Preparation: Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data CD titled "Lesson Three," begin with the slide titled "Anybody Out There?" There is a slide for each point in the message. Cue the DVD to the segment titled "Can You Hear Me Now?"

The Message: (title slide)



Prayer is such a huge and important part of our lives. Prayer is simply talking to God, AND He talks back to us. Every person who is a follower of Jesus should pray every chance he or she gets. But, did you know there are some people who really struggle with prayer?

It's true some people have real problems with prayer. Maybe they aren't sure what to say. Maybe they don't feel worthy enough to talk to God. Today, we are going to learn some really cool lessons about prayer and why it is so important to have as a part of our ROCK SOLID foundation.

One thing I hear from people when they talk about prayer is, "I feel like I am just talking to the air. I don't know if God really hears me or not." Well, the Bible tells us something very awesome...

1. When We Pray, God Hears Us (slide)



That's right. Every time we pray, God hears us. The Bible says in **1 John 5:14**, "And we can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will." Isn't that awesome? God hears us every time we pray. I want to show you just how good it is to know that when we pray, God hears us. It's kind of like this...(play "Can You Hear Me Now?").

(hold up the cell phone) Have you ever talked on a cell phone and had a hard time hearing the other person. Maybe there wasn't enough power bars or it was a bad reception area. That's frustrating, isn't it? We don't ever have to worry about that with God. Whether we are at home, at school, in the grocery store, on the playground, at a football game, anywhere...if we talk to Him, He hears us.

Another thing I have always heard people say about prayer is, "I don't know what to say." Usually people say that because they have heard some preacher or someone pray with big fancy words. You know, they pray something like, "Oh blessed heavenly Father of all creation, we beseech thee now to hearken unto our prayers to your majestic and mighty name." A lot of people think that is

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ROCK SOLID LESSON 3

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

what prayer has to sound like. You want some good news? God doesn't care what your prayers sound like as long as they come from your heart.

2. Prayer Doesn't Have To Be Fancy! (slide)



Jesus tells the story in **Luke 18** about two men who came to the temple to pray. (*both actors walk onto the stage and stand frozen in two different places on either side of the stage*) One man was a religious leader called a Pharisee. He stood up and made a big show out of his prayer. He said, (*have the actor playing the Pharisee "come to life" and pray the prayer loud and boisterously*) "Oh God, I thank you that I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there! For I never cheat, I don't sin, I don't commit adultery, I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income." (*when the actor finishes the prayer, have him bow his head and freeze again*) You can see that he was trying to impress everyone around him with the big fancy prayer he was praying.

There was another man there who was a tax collector. He was not a religious leader at all. He prayed a simple prayer quietly before God. He said, (*have the actor playing the tax collector "come to life" and pray softly and humbly*) "Lord, please have mercy on me. I am a sinner, and I need your help." Did you notice a difference between the prayers of these two men? Jesus said that God rejected the "fancy" prayer of the Pharisee because it didn't come from his heart. But, God answered the prayer of the tax collector because it was from his heart. (*have the actors slowly turn and exit*)

Prayer doesn't have to be fancy! You just talk to God from your heart. Talk to Him just like you would your best friend. If you need healing, you say, "God, I need you to heal me." If you need forgiveness, you say, "God, please forgive me." Doesn't matter the words you say, as long as it comes from your heart.

The final lesson we need to learn about prayer today is...

3. God Always Answers Our Prayers! (slide)



Did you know that God always answers our prayers? It's true. I know some of you are saying, "No it's not. That one time I asked for a new pool for Christmas God didn't answer!" The truth is, God does always answer. However, He doesn't ALWAYS answer in the way that we want Him to. You see, sometimes we ask for things that are not what is best for us.

God always answers our prayers. Sometimes He answers, "Yes." Sometimes He answers, "No." Other times He answers, "Wait." He may want to do what we are asking, but it may not be the right time according to His plan. Even though it may not always be the answer we want, we can know that we know that we know God ALWAYS answers our prayers.

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ROCK SOLID LESSON 3

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Bring the children who have needs down to the front for prayer. Have the other kids and the leaders pray with them, believing God will answer their prayers.

ROCK SOLID LESSON 3

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. What was today's Big Idea?**
Answer: *Every Day, When I Pray, I Know God Hears What I Say!*
- 2. What kind of toy did Silly Willy ask questions to?**
Answer: *a "magic 8 ball"*
- 3. What color snow did the fortune cookie tell Silly Willy to stay away from?**
Answer: *yellow*
- 4. Do you have to use fancy words in order to pray?**
Answer: *No*
- 5. When we pray, does God always hear us?**
Answer: *Yes!*
- 6. Did God accept the Pharisee's prayer?**
Answer: *No, because it wasn't from the heart*
- 7. We know that God hears us, but we also know that if He hears us, He will _____ us.**
Answer: *Answer*
- 8. What is the rock star's name that teaches our Power Verse?**
Answer: *Wiggy Pop*
- 9. God always answers our prayers. Sometimes He says, "Yes", sometimes "No", and other times "_____."**
Answer: *Wait*
- 10. Where was our Power Verse found?**
Answer: *1 Thessalonians 5:17*