



3. SMALL GROUP Lesson

SWEET TIMES

PROPS: A chocolate candy bar, a carrot and a glass of water

LESSON:

- If you were given a choice of this candy bar, a carrot or a glass of water, what would you choose?
- Allow for response.
- Most of you, if given a choice, would choose the chocolate candy bar.
- That is a sweet choice.

POINT TO MAKE:

- Have you ever watched someone and thought that they were really good friends with God?
- They got their prayers answered all the time? Have you ever wondered why?
- God doesn't play favorites, but He does spend time with people who choose to spend time with Him.
- Just like you can choose whether you want a chocolate bar, a carrot or a glass of water.
- You can choose to take time each day to spend time with your best friend - Father God.

DISCUSS:

- Prayer involves 3 things:
1. Set aside time every day to pray.
 2. Talk to God about yourself.
 3. Listen to God. At least half of your prayer time should be spent listening.

How do you listen to God?

1. Stop talking
2. Be quiet
3. Listen to the still, small, quiet voice on the inside.

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. How do you pray the relationship type of prayer? (you talk to God like you talk to your friends)
2. Can anyone pray this way? (yes)



SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

1. Pre-Service Activity
2. Bible Time
3. Small Group Lesson
4. Dismiss

FINDING GOD PRAYER

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 6:6, "But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private." (NLT)

BOTTOM LINE:

Prayer is simply talking and listening to God.



1. PRE-SERVICE Activity

- During the Pre-Service Activity, group leaders will direct conversation and games to help kids make friends at church.
- As a group leader you have the choice of Ice Breaker Questions or Game to use as the children arrive.

ICE BREAKER Questions:

Question #146:

- Who is your best friend?
- Why?

Question #816:

- What famous person would you like to meet?
- Why?

ICE BREAKER Game: Finish The Story

- Have children get in a circle.
- Pick one child to start.
- They begin "The Story."
Example: Once upon a time...
- The next person adds to the story.
Example: Once upon a time, a puppy was born...
- It continues around the room.
- You can go around as many times as you would like.

2. BIBLE Time

READ THE BIBLE:

1st-2nd Grade - Day by Day Bible: Lions! (pages 218-219)

3rd Grade and up - NIV Bible: Daniel 6:4-28

- Have each child read one verse out loud.
- Go around the room.
- This works best if everyone uses the same, easy-to-read translation of the Bible.

BIBLE STORY:

Daniel Prays

BIBLE CONNECTION:

Daniel was a leader in the King's palace. The other leaders did not like him because Daniel was a godly man. They tricked the king into making a law that no one could pray to anyone but the king. This did not stop Daniel. He had always prayed 3 times a day and did not stop. Because he was faithful to God, God was faithful to him.

BIBLE QUESTIONS:

1. What did Daniel do that got him in trouble? (he prayed to God)
2. How many times a day did Daniel pray? (3 times)
3. Was this something he just started or had he been doing this a while? (he had been doing it for a while - it was routine for him)

Point To Make: *The punishment, if you were found praying to anyone other than the king, was to be thrown into the lion's den. Daniel was, but in the morning he was still alive. The king repented and commanded everyone to worship Daniel's God.*