

Teaching Plan - Learning more about Jesus in everyday things.
(lollipop)

Aim - This session is on prayer - encouraging people to realise that prayer is not complicated, and God loves to hear them talking to him (and listening).

This session may have a different format to most other sessions - it is a long session so may be useful to split it over several meetings to get the best out of it - go at the pace of your group.



Welcome



Game

What's in the bag? Pass it round and give people the opportunity to feel it and guess what is in it.

Item: Can you speak to your local friendly lollipop man/lady and borrow their lollipop - it's big but a few bin bags could wrap it up!!



What a friend we have in Jesus (first verse - explain difficult words like privilege)



Activity

Question:

How many different ways can you keep in touch with family and friends?

(Talking/listening face to face, phone, letter, postcard e-mail, Facebook, Twitter etc - there are lots - you could just ask people to give answers or put people into groups - see which group comes up with the most) Perhaps you could sign something - words are not always needed to communicate - and/or mime something.



Talk

It is indeed a privilege to be able to bring everything to God through prayer, and prayer is what we are going to be thinking about and doing a lot of today.

We don't need to write a letter to God or send a card

We don't need to use a phone or have a mobile

We don't need to e-mail him or use *Facebook* or *Twitter*

No God is with us wherever we are. He is here with us right now, so we can speak to Jesus anytime at all! It's wonderful!

Jesus' friends asked him to show them how to pray.



Bible reading: Matt 6:5-13

That prayer - The Lord's Prayer is probably the best-known prayer in the world. Let's say it together - try the actions - it works best if you are in a circle.

Our Father *hands joined*

In heaven *hands joined and raised high*

Honoured be your name *heads bowed*

Your kingdom come *release hands and make a gesture of invitation*

Your will be done *a salute*

On earth as it is in heaven *all stamp feet for 'earth' and then clap*

high above heads for 'heaven'

Give us this day our daily bread *hands out ready to receive*

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us *hands clasped together in front of the body and then released; turn and shake hands with the people either side*

Don't let us be tempted but save us from evil *hands together in front of the face, shielding away temptation and then one hand up as a stop sign*

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory *one hand pointing up high; the other hand raised in a clenched fist; finally, both hands raised above the head high, with fingers spread*

Forever and ever *draw a large circle in front of yourself with one hand several times* Amen



Song

Read your bible, pray every day



Talk

To help me when I'm praying, I think about this - lollipop! (a school crossing patrol sign) It tells me what to put in my prayers to Jesus.

The **S** reminds me to say sorry for all the things I've done that are wrong.



Drama

Ask some people to mime some things we do wrong and let's see if we can guess them: -

- Shake your fist in anger - sorry Jesus, for being angry
- Point your finger forcefully blaming another person - sorry Jesus, for blaming someone else when it was me
- Hold your fist tightly to your chest, not sharing - sorry Jesus, for not sharing with my friends
- Hold your hand across your mouth, having accused wrongly - sorry Jesus, for saying things that were hurtful about others
- Put your hands across your eyes, not seeing where help is needed - sorry Jesus, for not helping when I saw things to be done
- Put your hands over your ears, not listening to cries for help - sorry Jesus, when I pretended not to hear when others needed help



Bible Reading: 1 John 1:9



Prayer Time

Leader to do an echo prayer giving people time to repeat the line and think about it. (An example is below)

- Father God
- I'm sorry for the times when I have been bad tempered and argued with people.
- I'm sorry for the times I did not share with others
- I'm sorry that I did not take time to help people when they needed help.
- I'm sorry that I don't spend enough time praying and learning about Jesus.

Ask a leader to end this section by reading again the Bible passage 1 John 1:9



An alternative way to do the sorry prayer is to give everyone a piece of black material (to represent sin) Have a cross (remember to say this represents bringing things to Jesus) on a table surrounded by shiny stones. People say sorry to God silently then bring their black cloth and leave it at the cross and take away their shiny stone. Remember to explain that when God forgives us, we are shiny clean like the stone.

(You know your group best - only use this activity if you are sure that people will not put the stone on their mouth as this could be dangerous)



Play '**The Father himself loves you**' (Prospects) - remind people that God always loves them and will forgive all the bad things we do when we say sorry to him.

The next letter on the lollipop is '**T**'.

'T' is for - thank you, Jesus



Bible Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5 v 16 - 18



Prayer

Give everyone an opportunity to say thank you Jesus for something - this could be done in big group or split into smaller groups - it does not matter how many people are praying at the one time

It would be good to say and sign "thank you Jesus for ... so that those with no verbal communication can still participate.



Song

Thank you God for this fine day

Sing again - version below

Thank you God for (name of group)

Thank you God for (choose someone here)

Thank you God for (choose something)

Thank you God for loving me.

The next letter on the lollipop is 'O'

'O' is for - others



Bible Reading: 1 Peter 3:8



Prayer

Remind people that praying is just speaking to your best friend Jesus - we can all do it - we don't need special words.

Encourage everyone to pray for the person on their right - then person on their left - this can be silently or out loud - everyone praying at the same time - remind people that God hears all our prayers no matter how many people are praying at the same time.



Song

The Father himself loves you (Prospects)

In the last section we listened to this song - now we can sing it to each other - if you can move around the room and sing it to each other - point to someone when it comes to "loves you"

The last letter on the lollipop is 'P'

'P' is for 'please'.



Bible Reading: Philippians 4:6

Now we speak to Jesus and ask him to please help us or people we know - might be about illness, sad times or anything that we need help with. Have an object that people can hold when praying (could be a bible, a cross or anything that indicates when you are holding it is your turn to pray) - when finished say amen and pass it on to next person. Be sure to say that if people don't want to pray, they simply pass on the object. Get a leader to start so that people get the idea - also a leader to finish so the ending is clear. In big groups you will need to have more than one person praying at a time.



Talk

Now every time we see



a lollipop we will be reminded to

pray.

- Sorry
- Thanks
- Others
- Please



Possible Songs

Perhaps you might want to learn this extra verse for Jesus Loves Me

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say
That I love Him, every day

(With thanks to Ann McFarlane who contributed much of this material)