

kídz CONNECTION - it's all about the GROWTH!,
(Grace, Relationships, Obedience, Walk of
Faithfulness, Talking with God, Heart for God and
Others)

Talking with God - Elementary

Third quarter – Talking with God Changes Me!

Week 7 - Sunday School

Scripture – Philippians 1:3-8

Lesson – When I choose to talk with God, I will pray
for and thank God for other believers!

Verse – Philippians 1:3-7a

Opening - 20 minutes

- Music - 15 minutes
- Activity - 5 minutes
 - Directions – Assign children to a specific group so they can practice for their part – feel free to copy and print out each group’s part so children can read their parts during the lesson -
 - Small Group #1 – verse 3 – Smile, put finger tips at your mouth and move hands out and up for “thank You”, hold right hand in front of your face/head and quickly move your index finger up to make a sign like a “light bulb” coming on for “remember” while saying – **“I thank God every time I remember you! I remember you! Thank You God! I remember you! Thank You God!”**
 - Small Group #2 – verse 4 – Make praying hands and smile while saying - **“In all my prayers for you I always pray with joy!”**
 - Small Group #3 – verse 5 – Smile, pat each other on the back and point up while saying – **“I am happy you help me tell others the Good News of God’s love!”**
 - Small Group #4 – verse 6 – Smile, nod, bring both hands up to the side of your face with your palms out for “amazing”, shake head while saying - **“I know God has started something amazing in you and He won’t give up on you!”**
 - Small Group #5 – verse 7 – Hug self, nod, cross wrists in front of you as if you are in “chains”, then stand tall and put your hands on each others shoulders while saying - **“I love you with all my heart, so it doesn’t matter if I’m in chains or standing for the truth, we serve God together!”**
 - Small Group #6 – verse 8 – Look sad, hug self, smile and point up while saying - **“God knows I miss you all and love you with the love Jesus gives!”**

Today’s Bible lesson is being presented as a “Wave” drama the entire class will participate in. Before beginning lesson, have each child place their chairs in one large circle with each group sitting together beginning with group #1, then group #2 and so on to group #6. The Storyteller will stand in the center of the circle and tell the first portion of the Bible lesson, then group one will stand, present their part and sit back down. The Storyteller will tell the second part of the Bible lesson then group two will stand, present their part, sit back down and group one will stand, present their part and sit back down. The Storyteller will tell the third part of the Bible lesson and group three will stand, present their part, sit down, group two will stand, present their part, sit down, group one will stand, present their part, sit down and so on until the final part of the lesson is told and each group in turn stands, presents their part and sits back down.

Lesson - 10 minutes

Say – **Hello! I’m so glad to see each of you this morning. We have been learning some important things about how our lives change when we choose to pray and talk with God! Last week we learned when we talk with God our lives change as we become people who know God will forgive us when we ask Him for forgiveness! Today we are going to learn about another way our lives change when we talk with God . . . we become people who rejoice with and are thankful for other believers! The Apostle Paul told many, many people about Jesus’ love and grace. Many people believed what he said and chose to be people who would know and walk with Jesus. Some people didn’t like what Paul taught and they had him arrested, beaten, stoned, even put him in the arena with real lions. If anyone had “reason” to think it just wasn’t worth it to follow Jesus and had a thing or two to complain about, it would have been Paul. Paul suffered greatly for telling others about Jesus’ love and grace, but he also found much to be thankful for!**

(Have Group #1 stand, say their part, do their motions then sit back down - Smile, put finger tips at your mouth and move hands out and up for “thank You”, hold right hand in front of your face/head and quickly move your index finger up to make a sign like a “light bulb” coming on for “remember” while saying – **“I thank God every time I remember you! I remember you! Thank You God! I remember you! Thank You God!”**)

Say – **Paul could have been a complainer, but he spent so much time talking with God and telling others about how they could be forgiven by God, instead of complaining, he chose to be thankful! Paul was thankful for many things, but one thing he was especially thankful for was for other believers! Paul said every time he thought about other believers, he would thank God for them! Let’s be thankful like Paul! **“Dear Lord, thank You for others who believe in You and want to follow You!”** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer)**

Say – **In your small groups, beginning with your Small Group Shepherd, go around your group and thank God for the person on your right! (Allow a moment for groups to do this.)**

Say – **Being a person who chose to spend time talking with God really changed Paul’s life! Being a person who chooses to spend time talking with God will really change our lives, too! Paul didn’t pray because he felt like he “had” to. Paul prayed because he really wanted to talk with God! Paul prayed because he really believed God**

would hear and answer his prayers! Prayer wasn't something Paul did because he was expected to pray, Paul prayed because prayer allowed him to know and walk with God and this brought tremendous joy to his life!

(Have Group #2 stand, say their part, do their motions then sit back down. - Make praying hands and smile while saying - **"In all my prayers for you I always pray with joy!"** - Have Group #1 stand, say their part and do their motions then sit back down)

Say – Paul knew talking with God would bring him joy! Now sometimes Paul would pray about things that may have been sad things or difficult things, like if someone was sick or if someone had something bad happen to them. Paul knew no matter what was happening he could still have joy because prayer allowed him to talk with God and talking with God allowed Paul to know and walk with God which brought him joy! Paul had joy just from being able to talk with God, so when he said he always prayed with joy when he prayed for others that's because everything about prayer brought Paul joy! It can be the same for us! We can pray with joy just because we can talk with God! We can pray with joy even if we are praying about something sad because we know we are talking with God and He will hear and answer our prayers! We can pray with joy! Let's pray with joy like Paul! **"Thank You Lord that I can tell You about everything!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer of praise) **"Thank You Lord for the peace You give that fills my heart and mind!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer of praise) **"Thank You Lord for giving me joy!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer of praise)

Say – Paul chose to be thankful and he prayed with joy simply because he knew he could talk with God! He was also happy about some very important things!

(Have Group #3 stand, say their part, do their motions then sit back down. - Smile, pat each other on the back and point up while saying – **"I am happy you help me tell others the Good News of God's love!"** - Have Group #2 stand, say their part and do their motions then sit back down. Have Group #1 stand, say their part and do their motions then sit back down)

Say – Paul knew other believers could and would help him tell more people the Good News of God's love and this caused Paul to be very thankful for other believers! We can be people who are thankful for each other and enjoy working together to tell others about God's love, like with our special project to raise money for clean, safe drinking water in Africa! You are all working together to help give families clean water and when they get the water you helped provide,

they will also learn about the Good News of God's love! Let's take a minute to thank God for the others in your small group. Starting with your Small Group Shepherd, take a moment to thank God for the person on your left! (Allow a few moments for groups to do this.)

Say – Paul knew and walked with God because he spent a lot of time talking with God. It made Paul very happy others chose to accept God's Grace and wanted to know and walk with God by talking with Him, too! Paul knew these people would help him tell more people about God's love and he knew something absolutely wonderful and amazing was in store for these people!

(Have Group #4 stand, say their part, do their motions then sit back down. - Smile, nod, bring both hands up to the side of your face with your palms out for "amazing", shake head while saying - **"I know God has started something amazing in you and He won't give up on you!"** - Have Group #3 stand, say their part, do their motions then sit back down. Have Group #2 stand, say their part and do their motions then sit back down. Have Group #1 stand, say their part and do their motions then sit back down)

Say – Paul knew God would never, never, never give up on us! Paul had lots of things to be thankful for and happy about, but knowing God had a plan for something amazing in his life and God would never give up on him gave Paul tremendous joy! Paul had even more joy in knowing the same was true for others who chose to follow God! God has started something amazing in you and me and He will never, never, never give up on you or me! You may have something sad or difficult happening in your life, but we can know for sure, God has an amazing plan and He will never, never, never give up on you! You may have things going well for you right now and you can know God has an amazing plan for your life and He will never, never, never give up on you! Let's sing praises to God for His amazing plans for us and how He will never, never, never give up on us! (Lead class in singing one or two praise songs)

Say – God's love for us is so amazing! He didn't have to love us, but He does! He didn't have to make it possible for us to know and walk with Him, and yet not only did He do so, He truly wants us to know and walk with Him! He promises to work in our lives in completely amazing ways and promises He will never, never, never give up on us! You and I have a lot to be joyful about, just like Paul did! Paul rejoiced in how God worked in his own life and he rejoiced in how God worked in other believer's lives as well!

(Have Group #5 say their part, do their motions then sit back down. – Hug self, nod, cross wrists in front of you as if you are in "chains", then stand tall and put

your hands on each others shoulders while saying - **"I love you with all my heart and this is a good thing, so it doesn't matter if I'm in chains or standing for the truth, we serve God together!"** - Have Group #4 stand, say their part, do their motions then sit back down. Have Group #3 stand, say their part, do their motions then sit back down. Have Group #2 stand, say their part and do their motions then sit back down. Have Group #1 stand, say their part and do their motions then sit back down)

Say – **Paul was a missionary. Not all believers in Paul's day traveled to other places to be missionaries like Paul, but Paul said they served God together. Over and over Paul asked believers to pray for him so he would have the opportunity to tell others the Good News of God's love. People prayed for Paul so he knew when he was in prison for telling others about Jesus there were people who loved God and loved him and were praying for him! Paul knew when he was able to travel freely and tell about Jesus there were believers who loved God and loved him and were praying for him! Paul knew they were a "team" and they served God together! When you pray for our Pastor, you are showing your love and are serving God together with our Pastor! When you pray for the people at Samaritan's Purse and for the families in Africa, you are showing your love and are serving God together with Samaritan's Purse! Let's show our love and pray for our Pastor and serve God together with him! In your small group, beginning with your Small Group Shepherd, take a moment to go around your group and pray for our pastor! (Allow a few moments for groups to do this.)**

Say – **God had Paul write letters to Christians to help them learn how to know and walk with God. In his letters Paul often said how much he missed people he met as he traveled all over telling people about God's love. Paul saw other believers as his family and he truly loved them. When we accept God's grace and love, other believers are our family, too! As we choose to talk with God and know and walk with Him, we will love other believers like Paul did.**

(Have Group #6 say their part, do their motions then sit back down. – Look sad, hug self, smile and point up while saying - **"God knows I miss you all and love you with the love Jesus gives!"** - Have Group #5 stand, say their part, do their motions then sit back down. Have Group #4 stand, say their part, do their motions then sit back down. Have Group #3 stand, say their part and do their motions then sit back down. Have Group #2 stand, say their part and do their motions then sit back down. Have Group #1 stand, say their part and do their motions then sit back down)

Say – **Being a person who talks with God will change our lives in many ways! We will be a person who is thankful for other believers! We will**

be a person who wants to pray for other believers! We will have great joy! Talking with God changes our lives in amazing ways!

Thank children for participating and close in prayer – **Thank you all for helping with our Bible lesson today! We can all choose to talk with God and when we do our lives will change in amazing ways! One of those wonderful changes will be we will be thankful for other believers and want to pray for them! Thank You God we can choose to talk with You and really know You! Thank You for Your love for us, we love You, too! Amen!**

Dismiss children to their small groups for Small Group Time.

Small group time - 25 minutes

- Catch up/greet visitors/pray
- work through application flyer
- choose activity to do for coming week
- work on memory verse

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Talking with God - Elementary

Third quarter – Talking with God Changes Me!

Week 7 - Optional Second Service

Scripture – Psalm 119:57-64

Lesson – When I choose to talk with God, I will want
to pray for other believers!

Verse – Philippians 1:3-7a

Opening

- Music
- Verse – Philippians 1:3-7a -/ **I thank my God every time I remember you./ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy./ I am happy because you have joined me in spreading the good news./ You have done so from the first day until now./ I am sure that the One who began a good work in you will carry it on until it is completed./ That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns./ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you./ I love you with all my heart.**
- Game – Musical Chairs X 2
 - preparation –
 - set up a row of chairs with one chair facing one way, the next facing the opposite way, back and forth – enough chairs for all but two children.
 - Directions -
 - Have children line up facing in one direction and when you play music, they walk around the chair row, not touching any chairs, until the music stops. When the music stops, all children may try to find a chair to sit in.
 - The two children without chairs get to say the verse together.
 - Remove two more chairs and allow children to continue until all chairs are gone and all children have said the verse.
 - Play again if you have time

Bible lesson

- Supplies –
 - Microwave oven
 - Paper towel
 - Bar of Ivory soap – must be Ivory soap

(Greet children and gather them in sharing circles sitting knee to knee with the others in their small group).

Say – **This morning we got to see how choosing to talk with God changes our lives by making us people who are thankful for other believers and chooses to pray for them! We are going to try a cool experiment to help us understand more about praying for other believers!**

(Gather children around a microwave – if you have access to two microwaves, divide your group and give directions to a Small Group Leader so they can present the project simultaneously with the other microwave oven.)

Say – **I need one helper.** (Select a child and have them join you – obviously if you have more than one microwave oven, you will need a helper for each microwave location)

Say – **I have an ordinary bar of Ivory Soap.** (Hand the bar to your helper)
Please unwrap our bar of soap. (Allow child to unwrap the soap then have him/her give you the soap and return to his/her seat.)

Say – **Thank you. I need another helper.** (Select another child to join you)

Say – **I need you to place two pieces of paper towel in the microwave.** (Allow a moment for child to place paper towel in the microwave.)

Say – **Thank you. I need another helper.** (Select another child to join you)

Say – **I need you to place the soap on the paper towel in the microwave.** (Allow a moment for child to place the soap on the paper towel in the microwave.)

Say – **Thank you. I need one final helper.** (Select another child to join you)

Say – **I need you to set the microwave to cook our soap for two minutes on high power.** (Allow a moment for child to set microwave – be sure to supervise carefully.)

Say – **Thank you. Let's watch and see what happens to our soap!** (Allow everyone to watch and see what happens – the soap will “grow” and expand! The children will be impressed, as will any adults in the room!)

Say – (When the two minutes are up take soap and set on a counter or table to cool – when it has cooled you can allow small groups to each have a turn to gently touch the “expanded” soap if they like at the end of class) – **Paul spent a lot of time talking with God! Paul really knew and walked with God! Paul knew the more he talked with God, the more he would grow in really knowing and walking with God – kinda like the soap grew and grew! Paul wanted others to grow and grow in how much they knew and walked with God so he prayed for them so they would know and walk with God! Paul was thankful for other believers and their prayers for him, too! David also spent a lot of time talking with God! David knew and walked with God! David wrote some very special prayers in Psalm 119! The things David prayed for in Psalm 119 are the same things we can pray about for ourselves and for others! I want to know what God's Word says!** (Read Psalm 119:57-64)

Say – David really knew how to talk with God! He started this prayer out by getting straight to the point of what was really important! So often when we pray we use the time to just ask God for a bunch of things we think we need, but really are just things we want. David knew what was most important! He knew God was really all he really needed! Let's be like David! Let's pray and thank and praise God for being all we need! **"Thank You Lord for being all I need!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer) **"Thank You Lord for having a love for me that never, never, never ends!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer) **"Thank You Lord for never, never, never giving up on me!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer) **"Dear Lord, I choose to turn to You with all my heart and want You more than anything!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer) **"Dear Lord, I will follow and obey You!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer)

Say – So often when we pray for others we don't really know what to pray for unless they are sick or in trouble. Just like we can pray the same prayers David prayed for ourselves, we can pray those prayers for others! Paul prayed for other believers the same as he prayed for himself. Let's pray for others! In your small group, beginning with your Small Group Leader, pray this prayer for the person on your right. **"Thank You Lord for being all _____ needs! Please help him/her know You will never, never, never give up on him/her and your love for him/her will never, never, never end!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer)

Say – Now, in your small group, beginning with your Small Group Leader, pray this prayer for the person on your left! **"Dear Lord, please help _____ choose to turn to You with all his/her heart and want You more than anything! Please help him/her want to follow and obey You!"** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer)

Say – David and Paul knew there would be times in their lives when difficult things might happen. Paul actually was put in prison several times for telling others about God's love and yet he still chose to trust and remember God and sing praises to Him in the middle of the night! We can also choose to trust God no matter what and choose to thank and praise Him when we have difficult times and remember to pray for other believers who suffer for their faith. There are Christians around the world right now who are in prison because they love Jesus. Let's pray for these other Christians who suffer for choosing to love God! (Give groups time to spend in prayer for believers around the world who suffer for their faith – if you want to you could go to <http://www.prisoneralert.com/> to learn about a specific Christian who is in prison for their faith and have the children pray for this person.)

Ask – **What difference does it make when you choose to talk with God it will change your life so you become a person who wants to pray for other believers? Talk about this in your small group for a moment.** (Give groups a few moments to do this)

Ask – **Who will tell me what your group talked about?** (Allow a few children to share)

Ask – **How does it change your everyday life to know God wants you to pray for others? Talk about this in your small group.** (Allow groups a moment to do this)

Ask – **Who will tell me what your group talked about?** (Allow a few children to share)

Say – **David said he was a friend to all who loved God and followed Him. We are friends and brothers and sisters to all who put their faith in God! When we choose to be people who talk with God, our lives will change because we will want to also be people who are thankful for and want to pray for other believers! We can pray for other believers when they have needs and we can pray for them so they will grow in their love for God! We can pray they will “expand” so they know and walk with Him! When we become people who talk with God for other believers, our lives will be changed! Small Group Leaders, go around your circle and pray the following from Psalm 119 for each child in your group, by name, “Dear LORD, thank You for being everything _____ needs! Please help him/her look to You with all his/her heart!”** (Allow groups a few moments to do this, and then when they have all finished, close in prayer.)

Extra time craft –

- Supplies –
 - 2” wax paper squares – one per child
 - Approximately a 2” ball of white Sculpy clay – one per child
 - 6”x3” piece of paper – one per child
 - 6”x3” piece of foil – one per child
- Directions –
 - Have children carefully flatten their clay into an oval or rectangle shape on their piece of foil – they will need it to be big enough for each person in their small group to make a fingerprint on their clay
 - When they have flattened their clay, show children how to use the waxed paper to smooth the surface so there aren’t any fingerprints on the clay
 - Then carefully have each child press with their finger on the clay of the others in their group – children may mark on their paper the

names of the children to match up with their fingerprints so they will know which fingerprint belongs to each child in their group.

- Tell children to carefully take this home and ask their parents to help them bake it in their oven on a cookie sheet for 30 minutes at 250 degrees.
- When it is baked and cooled, tell them to write a name for each fingerprint on the backside of their clay.

Say - Place this where you will see it and remember to pray for the people in your small group! We can pray for each other! We can pray for the same things we pray for ourselves as well as we can pray for specific needs! When we talk with God we will want to pray for others! Knowing this changes our lives!

If you have extra time play your memory verse game again.