

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

Prayer – Preschool/Early Elementary

Third quarter – Prayer Changes Me!

Week seven – 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 1:6

Opening - 20 minutes

- Music - 15 minutes
- Activity - 5 minutes
 - Directions – Assign children to a specific group so they can practice their part – feel free to copy and print out each group’s part so Small Group Shepherds can help children with their part and read if necessary 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!”** This group will also lead the class in singing, *“I have the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy down in my heart!”*
 - Small Group #3 – 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!”**

After five minutes, call small groups together for the Lesson. Greet children and have them sit with their small groups in sharing circles (knee to knee). Explain to children they will all have the opportunity to help with the Bible Lesson. Let them know you will motion to each group when it is time for them to help with their parts. When you motion to them again, they will return to their seats.

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! We have much to be thankful for, too! Let's take a minute to play "Thankful Five-step Follow the Leader"! Beginning with your Small Group Shepherd you will each have a turn to be the leader of your small group. When it is your turn, lead your group for five steps and then tell one thing you are thankful for. Maybe you want to take five giant steps or maybe you want to take five tiny, backward steps and then tell how you are thankful for your family or this day or your new shoes! However you want to lead the group for your five steps, everyone else in your group will follow you and then you can tell one thing you are thankful for and it can be anything you are thankful for! When everyone in your group has had a chance to lead for five steps and tell what they are thankful for, return here and sit back down in sharing circles. (Allow a few moments for groups to play "Thankful Five-step Follow the Leader")

Say – Paul was thankful for many things and Paul chose to follow God and talk with Him! This changed Paul's life! We are going to learn some important things about following God, talking with God and how this changes our lives! I need the help of everyone in Small Group #1 so please come stand next to me. (Allow a moment for children in Small Group #1 to join you)

Ask – Did you learn about something Paul was thankful for? (Allow children to answer, "yes"!)

Say – Please tell us what Paul was thankful for! (Allow children in Small Group #1 to do their motions and tell you what Paul was thankful for - 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 – Well done! Thank you Small Group #1. 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 that 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 – **Small Group #1, please teach all of us your special motions and words that tell us what Paul was thankful for!** (Allow Small Group #1 a few moments to show and lead the class in saying their special part of the lesson - 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!”** Send Small Group #1 back to their seats)
- Say – **Thank you Small Group #1! Let’s be thankful and pray for each other like Paul prayed for other believers! 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 – **Let’s learn more about how prayer changes our lives! I need the help of everyone in Small Group #2 so please come stand next to me.** (Allow a moment for children in Small Group #2 to join you)
- Ask – **Did you learn about something about how Paul prayed?** (Allow children to answer, “yes”!)
- Say – **Please tell us what you learned about prayer!** (Allow children in Small Group #2 to do their motions and tell you what they learned about prayer - Make praying hands and smile while saying - **“In all my prayers for you I always pray with joy!”** This group will also lead the class in singing, *“I have the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy down in my heart!”* but not quite yet)
- Say – **Well done! Thank you Small Group #2. Paul knew praying would bring him joy! Now sometimes Paul would pray about things that may have been sad things like if someone was sick or if someone had something bad happen to them, but 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 and this 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 giving me joy!”** (Pause and allow children to repeat prayer of praise)**

Ask – **Small Group #2 do you know a special song about joy that you could lead the rest of us in singing?** (Allow Small Group #2 to lead the class in singing, *“I’ve got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in my Heart!”* and then have Small Group #2 return to their seats.)

Say – **Thank you Small Group #2! Paul chose to be thankful and he prayed with joy just because he knew he could talk with God! Paul knew and walked with God because he spent a lot of time talking with God. It made Paul very happy that others chose to accept God’s Grace and wanted to know and walk with God by talking with Him, too! Paul knew something absolutely wonderful and amazing was in store for people who loved Jesus! I need the help of everyone in Small Group #3 so please come stand next to me.** (Allow a moment for children in Small Group #3 to join you)

Ask – **Did you learn what Paul thought was amazing for people who love Jesus?** (Allow children to answer, “yes”!)

Say – **Please tell us what you learned about prayer!** (Allow children in Small Group #3 to do their motions and tell you what they learned about prayer - 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!”**)

Say – **Well done! Thank you Small Group #3. 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 that 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 love Jesus! 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 that He will never, never, never give up on us!** (Lead class in singing one or two praise songs)

Say – **Small Group #3, please teach all of us your special motions and words that tell us about God’s amazing plan for us!** (Allow Small Group #3 a few moments to show and lead the class in saying their special part of the lesson - 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!" Send Small Group #3 back to their seats)

Say – **Thank you Small Group #3! 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 wants us to know and walk with Him! He promises to work in our lives in truly amazing ways and that 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! 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 that he would have the opportunity to tell others the Good News of God's love. People prayed for Paul and so Paul knew when he was in prison for telling others about Jesus that 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 that 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 – **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 that we will be thankful for other believers and want to pray for them! Thank You God that 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 - 15 minutes

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

Final Application Activity – 10 minutes –

Supplies – (amounts are figured on a small group of five children – adjust as necessary to fit your numbers)

- Apple slices – five per child for two children in every small group
- Crackers – five per child for two children in every small group
- Cheese cubes/cut slices – five per child for one child in every small group
- Small paper plates – one per child

Say – **In your small groups you have all the parts for your snack. You will be able to share with the other children in your group so each child in your group receives two pieces of apple, two crackers and one piece of cheese. One at a time you will share what you have with each person in your group. As you give someone in your group one of the items you have, tell a reason you are thankful for them. Go around your group sharing what you have and telling why you are thankful for each other.**

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Faithfulness, Talking with God, Heart for God and
Others)

Prayer – Preschool/Early Elementary

Third quarter – Prayer Changes Me!

Week seven – 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 1:6

Opening

- Music
- Verse – Philippians 1:3-7 -/ **I am sure that the One who began a good work in you will carry it on until it is completed./**
- Game – “Begin, Begin, Finish!”
 - Directions -
 - Have children sit in a large circle on the floor.
 - Tell them they are going to play a game like, “Duck, Duck Goose” except they will say, “Begin” when they touch the heads of the children they do not want to chase them and they will say, “Finish” when they touch the head of the child they want to chase them.
 - When the child taps a head of a child to chase them, they will race around the circle back to the place the child had been sitting. When they reach that spot, the first child will sit and everyone will say the verse together and the child who chased will become the “head tapper”
 - Play until all children have had a chance to be the “head tapper”
 - 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 choose to pray for them! We are going to try a cool experiment to help us understand 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 in 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 help set the microwave to cook our soap for two minutes on high power.** (Allow a moment for child to help 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 that 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 did choose to 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.)**

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 –
 - Big Craft sticks – one per child
 - Construction paper
 - Pencils/crayons
 - Scissors
 - Tape
 - Magnetic strip
- directions –
 - Have children trace around both of their hands on their construction paper and then cut out both hand prints
 - Team children up and have them give one of their hand prints to their teammate
 - Show children how to tape their hand prints to their craft stick with the “fingers” pointing out to make butterfly “wings”
 - Show children how to put magnetic strip on the back of their craft stick butterfly “body”

Say - **Place this where you will see it and remember to pray for your friend whose hand made the other part of your butterfly! We can pray for each other! We can pray for them 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.