

Meeting

4

God Makes Himself Known Through Prayer and Worship

Bible Verse:

Psalm 106:1

Extra Bible Verse:

1 John 4:19

Provide:

- 3-by-5-inch cards
- Pencils
- Poster board
- Masking tape
- Marker

To Do:

- Use masking tape to designate the WORKOUT area.
- Develop a series of instructions that will be written or whispered by a coach. Assign a point value for each instruction.
- On poster board print *Team Prayer List*.

Purpose:

This meeting can help children know that by praying and worshiping, their friendship with God is enriched. Just as being with friends deepens friendships, being aware of God's presence and responding to Him through prayer and worship deepen our friendship with God. Through prayer and worship God also makes His will (way) known. Quiet times for prayer and regular church attendance are important.

Bible Story:

Isaiah's Worship Experience (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Warm-up

Get-involved Activity
(10 minutes)

As each child arrives, the coach at the door will invite each child to play "Listen and Learn." The coaches will be positioned around the room to whisper instructions to each child. The coach at the door will whisper the first instruction. Her instruction should be to go to a particular location in the room and read the next instruction. The coach will also hand each child a pencil and a three-by-five-inch card to keep his score. Mix 10 to 15 instructions that are whispered by a coach or written out and posted in places in the room. Each instruction will offer points such as: 20 points if you brought your Bible, 10 points for every penny you have with you, or your shoe size is your score. The written and whispered directions should lead to a concluding instruction, which is: "Write any prayer request that you have on the *Team Prayer List*; then sit quietly in the taped area and add up your points."

Workout

Group Study
(30 minutes)

1. Begin workout. When all of the children have finished WARM-UP, blow the whistle to assemble everyone in the designated area.

If you kept score during WARM-UP, recognize the team with the most points.

2. Perform a relationship skit. Let two coaches read over the skit before presenting it to the kids.

MY BEST FRIEND

Coach 1: Hi, what are you doing?

Coach 2: (with suitcase or sack in hand and coat over her arm, as if leaving for a trip) I'm going to see my best friend. We see each other every week and call and talk to each other every day on the phone. We write long letters to each other.

Coach 1: It sounds like a great relationship!

Coach 2: What are you doing?

Coach 1: I'm praying and reading my Bible. I do it every day.

(Display a sign which says, "one month later.")

Coach 1: Hi, what are you doing?

Coach 2: (holds hand to ear as if talking on the phone) I'm calling my best friend on the phone. Even though we don't get to see each other as often as we did, we are good friends. We talk on the phone almost every week and write each other notes. *(vaguely, non-committal)* I'm planning to go see him sometime. What are you doing?

Coach 1: I'm trying to find time to pray and read my Bible this week.

(Display a sign which says, "two months later.")

Coach 1: Hi, what are you doing?

Coach 2: (disinterested) Oh, I'm just writing a note to someone I know. I write him almost every month. I can't find his phone number, or I would call sometime. What are you doing?

Coach 1: (Looking through a stack of books) I'm looking for my Bible. I think I left it here last week.

(Display a sign which says "Six months later.")

Coach 1: Hi, what are you doing?

Coach 2: (looking through a picture album) I'm just remembering an old friend of mine. We used to be so close. I couldn't wait to talk to him every day. We had so much in common, but now I have a hard time just remembering what his voice sounded like and what he looked like. Our good relationship has almost died

Provide:

- A whistle

Provide:

- Props for the skit: suitcase or sack, coat, picture album, paper, pen, stack of books

To Do:

- Enlist two coaches to be familiar with the relationship skit.
- On poster board strips print *One month later*, *Two months later*, and *Six months later*.

because we don't spend any time listening to each other.
Coach 1: (sadly, looking down) I know what you mean.

Ask: "What makes a good relationship? Regular communication. With our friends we use letters, phone calls, email, instant messaging, and visits. It takes regular communication to keep a good relationship with God, too. We use prayer, Bible study, and worship to communicate with God."

3. Tell the Bible story. This longer story may be most effective if several coaches tell portions of the story. The portions are divided by prayer opportunities for the children.

Isaiah's Worship Experience

Coach 1:

Isaiah was very sad when he heard the news that King Uzziah was dead. King Uzziah had ruled Judah for about 40 years. Isaiah was born and grew to adulthood during the years of Uzziah's reign.

King Uzziah had done many good things for the country. The nation had known peace and prosperity during Uzziah's reign.

Most people pray to ask for help when they are sad. Through worship and prayer people can know God better. In this time of sadness Isaiah went to the Jerusalem temple to worship and pray.

(Pause for the children to mention prayer requests that they may want to pray for. Briefly mention anything on the Team Prayer List. One coach should lead in prayer.)

Coach 2:

As Isaiah worshiped, he had a vision of God seated upon a throne. Although King Uzziah was dead, the Lord would be King forever and ever.

Isaiah understood that the Lord is great, powerful, and in control. And yet, even though the Lord is high and lifted up, He still cares about His people. The Lord is in touch with His people.

Around the Lord's throne were the seraphim, or winged angels. Each seraphim had six wings, two wings with which to cover his face (to show reverence), two wings with which to cover his feet (to show modesty), and two wings with which to fly (to show a readiness to serve).

In Isaiah's vision the seraphim sang praises to God: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory."

These words helped Isaiah understand that God was very near. Everything in the world helped him think about God.

(Pause for the children to mention things that they are thankful for. One of the coaches should lead a brief praise song.)

..Coach 3:

Isaiah now understood that the Lord is holy. (*Holy* means that first of all, He is God and not man.) Isaiah understood that God is great. Yet God is near to each person and is interested in the things He made.

Having met God as the Holy One, Isaiah now saw his own need for forgiveness. God helped Isaiah to see himself as not being holy. Isaiah did not feel good about himself.

When Isaiah confessed his need for forgiveness, a seraphim flew to him with a burning coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He pressed the coal to Isaiah's lips.

This is how Isaiah tells about his sins being forgiven.

(Pause to give the children a chance to think of things that they know are wrong. Ask them to bow their heads and close their eyes and pray silently. This should be a brief prayer; then a coach may close the prayer, thanking God for offering forgiveness.)

Coach 4:

In addition to his vision of God, himself, and the forgiveness of sin, Isaiah was given a vision of the needs of other people and how he could help them. He then asked to be sent to help others know God: "Then [Isaiah] heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?'

And [Isaiah] said, 'Here am I. Send me!'

—based on Isaiah 6:1-8

Finish the story time by asking the children to keep their eyes open and look up as if they could see through the ceiling and sky into heaven. While everyone is looking up, lead the group in a prayer of thanksgiving.

4. Write a Bible verse litany. Use a poster or chart tablet as the children write a litany, using the Bible verse as the repeating line. A litany is a prayer or reading in which a leader reads one line and the people respond by reading the next line. The people's response is usually a repetition of one sentence or line. The children can add lines for things that they are thankful for and examples of God's love. After the litany is finished, read it all together or divide the group into a "speech" choir to read portions of the litany.

5. Apply Bible truths. Ask: "Where do you worship?" After several responses, say: "You can worship while in the church worship center, but you can also worship in a classroom, at home, or outside. The place is not the important part, even though the place can set the tone for worship. You have just had an opportunity to worship as you prayed, learned about Isaiah, and used a litany to say your Bible verse. Through praying and

Provide:

- Chart, tablet, or poster board
- Markers

To Do:

- Write the words of Psalm 106:1 on the chart.

worshiping, your relationship with God is strengthened, just as a relationship with a friend is strengthened by time spent talking. In fact it is through this relationship of prayer and worship that God makes known His plan for your lives. Times of worship, like this, or in a worship service, or in your home as you pray are important, just as important as they were for Isaiah.”

6. Make a transition to STRETCHING. Say: “During your STRETCHING time, you will work in groups to better understand the way God makes himself known through prayer and worship.” Dismiss the children into their STRETCHING groups and encourage them to begin work immediately.

Stretching

Activity Page Time
(20 minutes)

Answers for the activity pages are found on the last page of this meeting. You may choose to provide photocopies of this page to the STRETCHING coaches.

The Tournament

Games and Activities
(20 minutes)

Blow the whistle to begin THE TOURNAMENT time. Choose from the following games and activities.

Rumor Relay

Form two teams and direct the teams to stand 20 to 40 feet apart in a single file. A coach stands in the middle holding pieces of paper with silly messages or tongue twisters written on them. When the whistle blows, the first child from each team goes and gets a message from the coach, reads it, and then throws it on the ground. The first team member runs back and whispers the message to the second team member, who whispers it to the third team member, and so on, until it gets to the end of the line. The last member returns to the coach and tells him the message. The team whose message is closest to the original one is the winner.

Emphasize that this game is not a race. One message might be as follows: “Mr. Peter Plantation picks mouth-watering pineapples to place in the Pennsylvania County Fair.” Make sure that an older child is first in line so that she is able to read the message.

Variation: To make the game more active, let each team divide in half and stand 30 feet apart. The first child on one side of the team runs to the first child on the other half of her team and whispers the message. That child runs back across to the next

Provide:

- A whistle

Provide:

- A whistle
- Strips of paper
- Marker

To Do:

- Print messages on strips of paper.

person on the other side of her team and so forth, until the last person receives the message and tells the coach.

Final round: Write the memory verse and reference, (Psalm 106:3) on strips of paper and let the kids see if they end up with all of the words of the verse.

Association

Guide the children to form a circle. A coach chooses someone to start, and that child says a noun. Moving around the circle, each player must say a word related to the noun. If the first word was *clothes*, then others might say *jeans, shirt, slacks, coat*, and so on. The same word cannot be used by two different people. If someone repeats a word, takes too long, or cannot think of an association, then she begins the game again by naming a new noun. The object is to get all the way around the circle. You may want to ask the children to go around the circle and name characteristics of God or worship.

Thankfulness Musical Chairs

Before the meeting, tape a piece of construction paper on one third to a half of the chairs. Arrange the chairs in a circle and direct the group to play musical chairs by walking around the inside of the circle. Supply enough chairs for everyone so that when the music stops, no one is out. Instead, ask the children to check under their chairs. If they have a square, they tell something they are thankful for. Play again, but ask the children to name one thing they learned today or what they like about your church worship service.

Cool Down

Refreshments and Conclusion
(10 minutes)

As the children come to the refreshment area, ask a coach to serve ice cream in small bowls or cups. Provide cups of water.

Ask the coaches to encourage the children to sit together as they enjoy their refreshments. Say: “You have learned from the Bible and each other about the importance of prayer and worship in a person’s life. You can pray and worship with a large group, a small group, or by yourself. You can pray and worship at church, outside, at school, or at home. The important thing is that you spend some time building your friendship with God.”

At the end of the meeting, meet each child as he leaves and whisper a final word of instruction, such as “Pray every day this week.”

Provide:

- Chairs
- CD player
- Construction paper
- Tape
- A CD of Christian music

Provide:

- Ice cream
- Bowls
- Spoons
- Water
- Cups

Meeting 4: Answers to Activity pages

Grades 2-3

Where Can You Pray?

Any answers the children give are correct. Let the children express their ideas of why they chose the pictures.

Grades 4-6

Seek and Find

N	O	I	T	A	T	I	V	N	I	H	S	R	C	P
S	E	D	J	R	B	K	N	P	U	D	C	D	U	N
U	F	M	P	R	A	Y	E	R	G	Y	O	L	O	A
R	W	I	O	E	Z	O	I	T	A	V	S	M	I	O
O	H	E	S	M	A	L	N	A	X	O	R	E	P	R
H	G	E	T	O	H	I	V	W	C	E	Y	K	E	E
C	A	L	L	T	O	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	Z	P
D	M	F	U	S	I	V	C	U	G	Y	I	R	U	P
O	F	L	D	I	F	N	A	Q	N	M	B	E	R	U
B	E	N	E	D	I	C	T	I	O	N	Q	L	J	S
U	T	S	B	A	P	T	I	S	M	K	M	U	H	S
E	A	B	G	N	O	U	O	R	I	V	C	D	S	D
F	J	C	K	L	I	A	N	T	H	E	M	E	T	R
Y	R	O	T	R	E	F	F	O	P	J	T	W	B	O
D	W	B	L	S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E	M	L