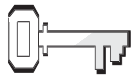


Time to Pray



References

Luke 5:12–16. See also Mark 1:35; Mark 14:32–41; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 262–265



Memory Verse

“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed” (Luke 5:16, NIV).

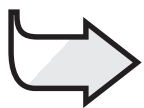


Objectives

The children will:
Know that quiet prayer time with Jesus is part of worship.

Feel the power that prayer gives us to face problems.

Respond by choosing to pray every day.



The Message

I worship God in my daily, quiet prayer time.

Monthly Theme

We praise God in our times of worship.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

A man with leprosy sees Jesus. He falls on his face and asks Jesus to heal him. Jesus reaches out His hand and touches the man. He is healed immediately. Jesus tells him not to tell anyone, but to go and show himself to the priest and give an offering. The man is so excited that he tells everyone he meets. Soon a whole multitude is following Jesus. Jesus speaks to them and heals many people. Then, as is His custom, He goes into the wilderness to pray by Himself. In this way He stays in communion with God and gains strength to do all that He has to do.

This is a lesson about worship.

Jesus often withdrew from the crowds to a quiet place for prayer. Even in His final hours on earth He went to Gethsemane to pray. Like Jesus, we gain strength from spending time in prayer. Time spent in prayer is time spent in worshiping God.

Teacher Enrichment

“The Saviour found it necessary to . . . turn aside from a life of ceaseless activity and contact with human needs, to seek retirement and unbroken communion with His Father. As one with us, a sharer in our needs and weaknesses, He was wholly dependent upon God, and in the secret place of prayer He sought divine strength. . . . Here He found comfort and joy” (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 362, 363).

Leprosy. “A chronic infectious disease of man, prevalent in certain parts of the world, affecting about 20 million people today. . . .

“The outstanding feature of leprosy is anaesthesia—the loss of feeling. The result is gradual wear and tear attrition of hands, face, and feet. This is the basis of the incorrect belief that parts drop off and that the disease is not curable” (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 8, pp. 667, 668).

“Had the priests known the facts concerning the healing of the leper, their hatred of Christ might have led them to render a dishonest sentence. Jesus desired the man to present himself at the temple before any rumors concerning the miracle had reached them. . . .

“The same priests who condemned the leper to banishment certified his cure. This sentence, publicly pronounced and

registered, was a standing testimony for Christ. . . . The priests were convinced of the divine power of the Saviour. . . .

"In laying His hand upon the leper, Jesus received no defilement. His touch imparted life-giving power. The leprosy was cleansed. Thus it is with the leprosy of sin. . . . Whoever will fall at His feet, saying in faith, 'Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean,' shall hear the answer, 'I will; be thou made clean.' Matthew 8:2, 3, R.V." (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 264–266).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 9.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Powered Up</i> B. <i>A Living Death</i>	lamp, lightbulb, flashlight, batteries white sticky labels, bell, pin
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> box covered to look like Bible none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	none nine inflated balloons, marking pen Bibles, chalkboard, chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Time to Pray</i> B. <i>Prayer Variations</i>	paper plates, markers chalkboard, chalk (optional)
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Let's Pray</i>	paper plate clocks made in Applying the Lesson (or make some)

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Review last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- lamp
- lightbulb
- flashlight
- batteries

A. Powered Up

Make the room as dark as possible. Let the children look at the light sources and ask: **What do all these light sources have in common?** (They need help to shine.) **What does the lightbulb need?** (to be connected to a power source) Screw bulb into lamp and ask: **Why is the lightbulb not shining?** (The power needs to be turned on.) Turn the light on. **What is necessary for the flashlight to work?** Try to turn the flashlight on first without batteries; then with batteries.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why can’t the lightbulb shine without the electricity or the flashlight shine without the batteries?** (no power) **Each one needs a source of power. So do we! Today we are going to find out more about the power source available to us. Today’s message gives us a clue.**



I WORSHIP GOD IN MY DAILY, QUIET PRAYER TIME.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- white sticky labels (optional)
- bell
- pin

B. A Living Death

Say: **Today we are going to test your reactions. Close your eyes and tell me if you feel anything.** Gently prick some children with a pin, stroke your finger over the back of their hand, or stick on a sticky label. Ask: **What did you feel?** Do not comment on the spots. Ask a child with a spot: **What is that spot on your hand? Does anyone else have a white spot? I am afraid that it is serious. You will have to sit over here and ring a bell to stop anyone else from coming near you.** Give child a bell.

Debriefing

Ask: **What sickness do you think we are talking about?** (leprosy) Many have the misconception that leprosy causes hands, fingers, and toes to fall off. Say: **When someone gets leprosy, it affects their nerves. So they cannot feel a pinprick. They can burn themselves or hurt themselves and not feel it. In today’s Bible story we will learn more about Jesus’ power and leprosy. Jesus’ source of power was time with His Father in prayer. We also can pray often. Our message for today says:**



I WORSHIP GOD IN MY DAILY, QUIET PRAYER TIME.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Whisper a Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 96)
- "A Little Talk With Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 98)
- "With Folded Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 97)
- "Into My Heart" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 125)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize worship in the story.



Offering

Say: **We worship God when we give our offerings to help others learn about Him.**

You Need:

- Bible offering container (see Lesson 9)



Prayer

Ask for prayer requests: anything that might be troubling the children or for which they want to thank God. Say: **When Jesus prayed, He often went off by Himself. Find a spot in the room where you can stand or kneel without touching anyone or anything. Close your eyes. Imagine you are completely by yourself and pray silently.** Wait until it is totally silent; then pray aloud for the prayer requests.

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

As you tell the story have the children participate as follows:

When you say: leper	The children: Move hand up and down as if ringing a bell.
Jesus	Fold hands as if praying.
God or Father	Point upward.

Practice until the children are comfortable with the actions.

Read or tell the story.

The man cried, "Unclean! Unclean!" It was a long time since he had noticed the first pale spot. When it did not get better, he had gone to the priest. The priest had looked at it and waited a while, but finally he had said the awful words, "You have leprosy."

So the man had had to leave his family and his home, and live outside the town with other lepers. Now whenever he came near people, he had to cry "Unclean!"

Someone shouted the news about **Jesus** to the **lepers**. They heard that He healed people from all kinds of illnesses. At first, they hoped He could cure them. Then they remembered that no one had been cured of leprosy since the time of the prophet Elisha. The **lepers** gave up, all but one. And that one thought that if only he could see **Jesus**, **Jesus** could cure him.

The **leper** did not know how to find **Jesus**. He couldn't go into the cities. He

couldn't travel the main roads. So he looked for **Jesus** in the small towns. He traveled on mountain trails where no one else went. Finally the **leper** found **Jesus** teaching people by a lake. He stood away from the crowd and watched **Jesus** heal people. He listened to **Jesus'** kind words. He began to move closer to the crowd. He forgot that he was not supposed to be near people. He thought only about being healed.

When people saw him, some ran away. Others shouted at him. Others tried to stop him from getting close to **Jesus**. They did everything but touch him. But the leper had not come this far to give up.

He fell to his knees in front of **Jesus** and said, "Lord, I know You can heal me and make me clean, if You choose to."

"I will," said **Jesus** as He touched the man. "Be healed!"

He touched me! thought the **leper**. *No one has touched me in a long, long time!* He looked at his arm. The white patches had disappeared. All over his body, the sores had disappeared. His skin returned to a normal color, just like people who didn't have leprosy.

"Go now and see the priests. Let them say you are clean. And give your thank offering," **Jesus** said. "But don't tell anyone what I did for you."

The man did everything **Jesus** said, except one thing. He thought **Jesus** was being modest. So he told everyone he met! More people than ever began looking for **Jesus**. They followed Him everywhere.

Jesus needed time to talk with **God**. He often went away for a while so He could have time to pray, time to talk with His **Father**. It was hard to find time to pray when so many people crowded about Him. So Jesus found quiet places where He would not be disturbed. Often

Jesus would get up to pray when it was still dark. Or He would pray all night. His favorite place for prayer was the Garden of Gethsemane.

So many people wanted so much from **Jesus**. He knew it was important for Him to get power and wisdom from His **Father** by praying every day. So He slipped away from people to have some quiet time with **God**.

We can get power and wisdom from **God** too. When we pray and worship Him every day, He will be with us.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Why was the leper looking for Jesus?

What made the leper think that Jesus could heal him? (He saw Jesus healing others. He had faith in Jesus' healing power.)

Why did Jesus send the leper to the priests? (A priest had to confirm that the leper had been healed before the man could live with his family again.)

How did the leper feel about being healed? What did the leper do? Why didn't Jesus want him to tell everyone?

Where did Jesus go after He healed the leper? Why?

When do you need to talk to Jesus? Why do you need to talk to Him? Remember . . .



I WORSHIP GOD IN MY DAILY, QUIET PRAYER TIME.

Memory Verse

Print one word of the memory verse on each inflated balloon. Write *Luke 5:16* on the ninth balloon.

Ask: **How easy is it to think when there are many people around you?**

You Need:

- nine inflated balloons
- marking pen

When the radio or television is on?

Jesus was usually surrounded by people. He often felt the need for a quiet time to talk to His Father. So, "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16, NIV).

Distribute the balloons randomly. Have the children line up so the words on the balloons form the memory verse. Repeat until the children know the verse.

Bible Study

Form five groups. (Large class: Form more groups; use more than one set of texts.) Give each group one of the references. Ask each group to answer these three questions (write the questions where all may see):

1. What did Jesus do?
2. What had happened immediately before?
3. What happened immediately after?

Matthew 14:19-23 Matthew 26:36
Mark 1:35-37 Luke 4:42
Luke 5:15, 16

Allow time for each group to report.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you think Jesus needed time alone with His Father? Why do you think He had new strength afterward?**

Why should we follow His example? What difference do you think daily quiet time in prayer would make in your life? When Jesus took time away from everyone to pray, He was worshiping God. We can do that too. Let's say today's message together:



I WORSHIP GOD IN MY DAILY, QUIET PRAYER TIME.

You Need:

- Bibles
- chalkboard
- chalk

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- paper plate for each child
- markers

A. Time to Pray

Give each child a paper plate and ask them to write from 1 to 12 on the plate like the face of a clock.

Say: **Jesus got up early in the morning to pray. What time is a good time for you to pray?** Help each child identify a time when they can have a daily quiet time to pray. Let them draw the hands of the clock to that time and write today's message across the face: "I worship God in my daily quiet prayer time."

Debriefing

Ask: **What might keep us from taking time to pray?**

What can we do about that? What can we talk about when we pray? Yes, we can tell Jesus anything: What makes us happy or sad; things that we would not want to tell anyone else.

When we pray, we worship God. And God will always help us find solutions to all our problems, big or small. Let's say our message together:



I WORSHIP GOD IN MY DAILY, QUIET PRAYER TIME.

B. Prayer Variations

Ask: **Do we always have to kneel**

You Need:

- chalkboard (optional)
- chalk (optional)

and close our eyes when we pray? (no) We can pray in many different ways. Think of some.

Write the ideas where all can see. Possible responses include:

Take a walk and talk with God.
Write a letter to God.
Have a special book for keeping our prayer list.

Make a prayer mobile—hang things for which we want to thank/ask God.

Make a paper prayer chain. Each link names a request or praises God for something.

Debriefing

Say: **Jesus often prayed early in the morning or at night. When is a good time for you to pray?**

Why do we need to make time to pray?

I am going to pray a short prayer. Put your hand up during the prayer if you want to say to God that you will spend time with Him every day.

After prayer say: **Let's say today's message together:**



I WORSHIP GOD IN MY DAILY, QUIET PRAYER TIME.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Let's Pray

If you did not make paper plate clocks during Applying the Lesson, have the children do so at this time. Ask them to decide when they will have a quiet time of prayer each day and draw the hands of the clock to that time. If they made a clock during Applying the Lesson, proceed as follows:

Say: **Today we have been learning more about prayer. Hold up your paper plate clock and show it to the person next to you. Tell them why you chose that time of day for your quiet prayer time.**

Think of someone in your family with whom you want to share your clock. Take it home and show it to them. Tell them about the man with leprosy and about Jesus' source of power; His prayer time with His Father every day. Tell them that they can share in God's power as they worship Him in quiet prayer time every day. Ask them if they have a daily quiet prayer time. If not, invite them to decide on a time.

Debriefing

Ask: **To whom will you show your clock? What will you say to them? Practice with the person beside you right now.** Allow time.

Let's remember that Jesus prayed to His Father often. We can pray often too—anytime we want to praise Him or ask Him for help. He will always hear us.

Let's ask God to help us say the right words when we share our clocks with someone. Pray that God will bless each child as they tell others about their prayer time. Then say: **Let's remember our message:**



I WORSHIP GOD IN MY DAILY, QUIET PRAYER TIME.

Closing

Say a short prayer asking God to help the children to spend more time with Him every day.

Editor's note: For creative approaches to prayer with children, we strongly recommend *100 Creative Prayer Ideas for Kids* by Karen Holford (© 2003 by Pacific Press), available at your Adventist Book Center.

You Need:

- paper plate clock made in Applying the Lesson (or use the materials from that activity to make one)

Time to Pray

References

Luke 5:12–16. See also Mark 1:35; Mark 14:32–41; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 262–265

Memory Verse

“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed” (Luke 5:16, NIV).

The Message

I worship God in my daily, quiet prayer time.

How often do you talk to your best friend? Once or twice every day? Jesus had a friend that He needed to talk to every day. Whom do you think it was?

The man called out, “Unclean! Unclean!” It had been a long time since he had noticed the first pale spot. When more spots appeared, he had gone to the priest. And he had heard those awful words: “You have leprosy.” He had had to leave his family and home. Whenever he came near people, he had to cry “Unclean!”

One day the leper heard that Jesus healed people. He wondered about that. Could Jesus heal him? Maybe Jesus could cure him.

The leper did not know how to find Jesus. But he would try. He could not go near the cities. So he looked for Jesus in the small towns. He traveled on mountain trails where no one else went. Finally, the leper found Jesus teaching people by a lake. He stood away from the crowd and watched. He saw Jesus heal people. He listened to Jesus’ kind words. His hope became faith! He believed Jesus could help him. So that man began to move closer to the

crowd. He forgot that

he was not supposed to be near people. He thought only about being healed.

When people saw him, some ran away. Others shouted at him. Others tried to stop him from getting close to Jesus. They did everything but touch him. But the leper had not come this far to give up. He fell to his knees saying, “Lord, I know You can heal me and make me clean if You choose to.”

“I will,” said Jesus, as He touched the man. “Be healed!”

He touched me! thought the man. *No one has touched me in a long, long time!* He looked at his arm. The white patches had disappeared. All over his body the sores disappeared. His skin returned to a normal color, just like the people watching him.

“Go now and see the priests,” said Jesus. “Let them say you are clean. And give your thank offering. But don’t tell anyone what I did for you.”

The man did as Jesus said, except for one thing. He told everyone he met! And more people than ever began looking for Jesus. They followed Him everywhere.

Jesus needed some quiet time to talk with God. He often slipped away from people for a while so He could have time to pray; time to talk with His Father. It was hard to talk when people were crowding about Him. So Jesus found quiet places where He would not be disturbed.

Often Jesus would get up when it was still dark to talk to His Father. Or He would pray all night. His favorite quiet place was the Garden of Gethsemane. So many people wanted so much from Him. He knew He needed power and wisdom from God. So He prayed every day. Every day He slipped away from people to have some quiet time with God.

We can get power and wisdom from God too. We need daily prayer time too. When we pray and worship God every day, He is with us.



Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go with your family to a quiet place outdoors. Read Mark 1:35 together. Imagine that you are in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus often prayed. Discuss and pray about special things your family names.
- Teach your memory verse to your family and sing a prayer song together.

Sunday

- Read Mark 1:35 by yourself. Find a place where you can be alone to pray. Tell God about your day.
- Why do you think Jesus liked to pray in a garden?
- Make a poster that says: "God Answers Prayer." Show it during worship. Ask each family member to tell about an answer to their prayers. Together, thank God for answering prayer.

Monday

- Fold a large piece of paper in half. Trace around your hand, keeping the little finger side on the fold. (Keep your fingers together.) Cut it out (do not cut on the fold). Unfold it, and write your memory verse inside. Put it in your quiet prayer place.
- During family worship read Matthew 6:9-13 together. Ask your family to help you write the prayer in your own words.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Tuesday

- During worship today read and discuss Matthew 6:5-8. When and where do people in your family have secret prayer time?

Share answers to prayer.

- Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 96); then thank God for answering prayer.

Wednesday

- Read and discuss Luke 11:9-13 during worship. Name and count good things that God has done for your family. Thank Him for them.
- Trace around the hands of each person. Cut out the hands and glue all of them on the same paper to make a montage. Above the hands write "Praying hands worship God."
- Sing a praise song as a prayer.

Thursday

- During worship read and discuss Luke 5:12-16. How do you know the leper had faith in Jesus? What was his life like before Jesus healed him? After?
- Ask each person in your family to imagine that because of illness they cannot live with each other. Ask each person to go to a quiet place alone and think about it. When you come back together, each one is to call out "Unclean! Unclean!" Together, ask Jesus to make you clean in every way. Thank Him for hearing your prayers.

Friday

- Review this week's lesson and act it out with your family. Ask each person to say the memory verse and tell about a quiet time with God this week.
- Have each person toss a wadded paper ball to another and name something for which they want to thank God. Sing a praise song before prayer.