



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Signs on Believers Hwy  
Winter Year 4, Lesson 46

# Jesus is Faithful—He Prays for Others

**Primary Scripture:** John 17:14-16, 20, 26; 1 John 1:8-9

**Key Verse:** John 17:20, “I’m not praying only for them. I’m also praying for those who will believe in me through their message.”

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Kids need to know the importance of prayer and to practice praying regularly. Their prayers and intercession for others bring great results as these prayers are given to God in the name of Jesus. Through the power of Jesus’ name, our prayers are heard just as if Jesus himself were praying them. Jesus is faithful to pray for us in this earthly ministry and even intercedes for us in heaven. John 17, the other Lord’s Prayer, shows us how important prayer was to Jesus and how he prayed for us.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Through Jesus’ death and resurrection in our place, our relationship to God is restored and, with it, our ability to pray in Jesus’ name. The Father will hear every such prayer.

**Jesus in us:** Jesus intercedes in his prayer that he might be in us and we in him. He dwells in us that we, too, can pray.

**Jesus through us:** In our prayers we can intercede for others and know that Jesus is working through us.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies: cell phone or other phone with a speaker option*

*The presenter will make a phone call to someone on another phone in a different room who will read back the script over the speakerphone so kids can hear his/her responses.*

### Welcome

**Good morning, kids. Welcome to Kid's Church! One of the exciting things about Kid's Church is that we can worship God and he speaks to us in his word.**

### Needing to talk

**So, I think there might be some important things to talk to him about. We need to tell him that we are thankful for all the things he has given us. We are especially thankful for his Son, Jesus. We need to tell him about some things we are concerned about and want to give him in prayer. We need to ask him to have a bigger part of our lives every day.**

## Calling God

**Also, we can ask him to help us show his love to others more and more. There's so much to say! I bet he can't wait to get connected with us! So, let's talk to him today... with this!**

Pull out telephone.

**Someone gave me the 800 number for God, so what do you say we talk to him now? The number is 1-800-GOD-TALK. Let's see, that's 1-800-463-8255.**

*(Ring - ring.)* After several rings, "God" finally picks up the phone and says:

***Hello, this is God. I'm sorry I've missed your call. I'm either not in the office or on the other line. But your call is important to me. If you will leave your name, a brief message and your phone number, I will call back as soon as I am able. The number for your prayer request will be returned in the order that it is received. Your personal number in line is: (pause) 964,328,763,844,906. Thank you.***

## Praise him

**Well, boys and girls, does that sound like our God? Of course not. Our God says, "Call upon me and I will answer you." He tells us to come into his house with thankfulness. Let's do that now when we worship. We certainly don't need a telephone for that. Instead, all we need is the name of Jesus, because all of our prayers and thanksgivings are given to him. What Jesus has done for us allows us to pray in his name. Let's praise him now.**

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

# The Power of the Cross:

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Supplies: phones from Attention Grabber*

*The telephone example is used again in this section, but this time there is an actual conversation with someone on the other end. The volunteer impersonating God should also use a voice that is quick tempered.*

**Boys and girls, I still have this phone number for God. Do you think it's a real number? Do you think I should try it again?**

Allow for responses.

**The reason I ask is because we are at the point in our worship service where we want to give God anything that might get in the way of our friendship with him. This means that if we have done anything wrong, we want to tell him about it and confess it, so that by the power of the cross, it is removed and we have the promise of his presence.**

**So what are some of the things that you did this week that might get in the way of your friendship with God? Have there been any ways that you have disobeyed him? For example, have you worried about something instead of praying and trusting him? That's disobedience. Have you used his name as a slang word instead of calling upon his name in prayer? That's disobedience. Have you been unloving or unkind to a brother or sister? That's disobedience.**

**Think of how you have disobeyed God this week so that you can tell him and he can lift it away with his forgiveness. Let's call him now. What was his number again? 1-800-GOD-TALK.**

Dial the number and a voice answers: *(Option: A different voice answers.)*

**Secretary:**    *This is God's secretary. How may I direct your call?*

**Leader:**       **Hi, we would like to speak to God, please.**

**Secretary:**    *Do you have an appointment?*

**Leader:**       **No, we were just hoping to talk to him.**

**Secretary:**    *Well, is this a business matter or are you a friend?*

**Leader:** Oh, I'm a friend. This isn't just business, this is \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in your name). Tell him I'm calling, along with all the kids in Kid's Church.

**Secretary:** One moment, please.

God gets on the line.

**God:** Hello, \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in name again). *What do you want?*

**Leader:** Oh, hi! Well, we wanted to tell you about some things that we don't want to get in the way of our friendship.

**God:** *Sure, let's talk.*

**Leader:** Well, there are things some of us here have done that might be considered disobeying you. So we want to talk about it and let you know that we are sorry.

**God:** *Whom do you have there?*

**Leader:** (List some of the names of kids in Kid's Church.)

**God:** *Wait a minute! I know them! I know some of the things they have done this week.*

**Leader:** Yes! That's why we wanted to talk to you!

**God:** *Well, how dare those kids want to talk to me? Don't they know I'm a holy God? I can't stand sin! They must be holy, too. Instead, they disobeyed me! Speaking of disobedience, what about YOU, \_\_\_\_\_? (Insert the name of large group presenter.) You disobeyed me last week too!*

**Leader:** Yeah, I was going to talk to you about that, but...

**God:** *But what? YOU blew it! I don't have to put up with your lousy disobedience! You don't really care about anyone except yourself! So, why should I care about you? I've had it! I think we are through as friends! Goodbye!*

**Wow. Boys and girls! What do you think about that? Who would come up here for an interview about that phone call?**

*Option:* Instead of an interview, take feedback from the audience.

**Is this the way God would really talk?**

Allow for response.

**How do you think God would really sound if the Kid's Church group called to tell about ways they have been disobedient? Can you answer that as God might?**

Allow for response.

<p><b>NOTE:</b> Be very clear to point out that this is <i>not</i> an example of how God treats us!</p>
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**He doesn't end the conversation. Instead, he gives us forgiveness and welcomes us as friends when we mess up. He does this because he gave us Jesus. When we pray in Jesus' name, our sins are forgiven. We trust that Jesus took the punishment of our sin on himself when he died on the cross. Because of that, we can be friends with God forever. The Bible says:**

***"If we say, 'We aren't sinful' we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. God is faithful and reliable. If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we've done wrong. (1 John 1:8-9)***

### Prayer

**Dear God, thank you for not breaking our friendship because we sin. Help us not let sin get in the way. Help us always remember to confess our sin to you. In Jesus name, please forgive us and help us not to sin anymore. We thank you that you are faithful and just and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

# Offering:

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

*Supplies: a piece of paper that says "Jesus" in the bottom of the offering plate*

Tip the plate so kids can read his name.

**We know that when we give our money in church, it's like giving our money to Jesus. The church uses this money to help people come to know, love, and follow Jesus. So let's bring our offering and give it to Jesus.**

**While we are doing that, I want to remind you that the name of Jesus is very powerful. When we use his name in prayer, like when we say, "In Jesus' name, we pray..." it reminds God that we trust Jesus as our Savior and God hears our prayers just as if Jesus himself were praying for us.**



# The Word

## Learning Game

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

### Telephone

*Teams of children in lines will each take a turn whispering a phrase to the next member of their team. The last person in the line to receive this message will announce it to the group. Quite often the end result is very different from what was spoken in the beginning.*

Have kids line up in groups of approximately ten. They don't need to be exactly even in number. Then say:

**During this game, you will pass three messages down your line— all in a whisper. Make sure you speak very clearly and listen very carefully, because you will be allowed to hear the message only once – no matter how well or how little you heard it. No one is allowed to repeat the message.**

**Message One:** Whisper the first message below to the first person in each line, who whispers it to the second person, who whispers it to the third and so on, until it gets to the last person, who announces the message just as he/she heard it. Then read the message the way it was first delivered.

**Message Two:** Follow the same instructions as Message One, only starting at the other end of the line.

**Message Three:** Choose three kids to form a line of three. Whisper the third message to the end child, who whispers it to the middle child, who whispers it to the child on the other end. This line represents a person praying, Jesus in the middle, and God on the receiving end.



Message #1 –  
**Is anybody there, does anybody care?**

Message #2 –  
**If you could read my thoughts, you'd know I need to talk.**

Message #3 –  
**This message must get through, I need help from you.**

*Hints to help this game work well:*

- *Evenly space kids by having them hold hands, stretch their line out and drop their hands.*
- *Don't have more than ten children in a line to avoid excessive wait time for a message to come through.*
- *Start the message at one end of the line and make sure to tell kids not to announce the message aloud during their turn. If they do, it will spoil the surprise ending too early.*
- *Kids cannot ask the message to be repeated if they did not hear it clearly enough or understand it the first time.*
- *Try another child in the center of the short line if the first try wasn't successful.*

### Teaching Point

**When you pray to God, does that message have to go through lots of other people? If it did, it might be like this silly game. The message could get lost or confused and maybe it could even seem that God, on the other end, doesn't care.**

**But the truth is, God does care—very deeply. When we pray, as followers of Christ, we pray in Jesus' name. This means that Jesus is in those prayers speaking our prayers to the Father with us. He is the one who *intercedes* for us. *Intercede* means that Jesus is the go-between since he gave his life for us so we can be friends with God the Father. He also will be the one who lifts up our prayers and concerns to the Father.**

# Bible Presentation:

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

*Supplies: video from The Gospel of John- show John 17, a box of Life cereal, a box of Froot Loops, a box of Apple Jacks (or Cheerios), (kids only need to see the box of Life cereal), large bowls for mixing the snack, and three signs: 1)Himself, 2) His disciples, 3) Us today*

Show the video, *The Gospel of John*, produced by Visual Bible International covering John 17. This clip runs for three minutes, thirty seconds.

After the video say:

**This prayer is a whole chapter in the Bible. Some people call it the *other* Lord's Prayer. The reason they call it that is because it is the prayer the Lord himself prayed. He prayed it on the night that he was arrested. The next day he went to the cross. When we think of the Lord's Prayer, we think of, "Our father, who art in heaven..." That's an important prayer, too. But that's the prayer he gave us to pray. Maybe we should rename it, "The People's Prayer," and keep the name, "the Lord's Prayer," for the one that we just heard. Let's learn about this prayer.**

## First Question:

**Who is it that Jesus prayed for? The first thing he prayed for was himself.**

Hold up sign #1 – "Himself."

**What do you imagine that Jesus would ask for from his heavenly Father? It's this.**

Hold up a box of Life cereal.

**No, it's not Life cereal—but it is Life.**

**Is it *his* life he is praying for? No, he's ready to give up his life, but he is asking that he would be able to give *eternal* life to all those the Father has given him. Even though he is praying for himself, Jesus is thinking of others. How does he give us eternal life? It says this in John 17:3, "*This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.*"**

Do you have eternal life? If you know God and trust Jesus whom he sent, then you do.

Second Question:

**After Jesus prayed for himself, whom did he pray for next?**

Hold up sign #2 - "His Disciples."

**His disciples.**

Hold up Froot Loops.

**What did he pray for them? Well, he knew they would be part of the world. Sometimes, when the Bible says "the world," it refers to people...**

Hold up Apple Jacks.

**...who don't think about God's kingdom. They think only of this world.**

Hold up the bowl of Froot Loops.

**Does God want these believers to have this life...**

Pour the Life cereal into the large bowl.

**...in the world with all the people who don't know him and don't love him?**

Hold up the Apple Jacks.

**Does God want Christians to be around people who may even hate Jesus or who do terrible things? What do you think? Should I pour the believers and the unbelievers into the bowl together? Does God want them in the world? The Bible has the answer.**

***"I have given them your message. But the world has hated them because they don't belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I'm not asking you to take them out of the world but to protect them from the evil one. They don't belong to the world any more than I belong to the world." (John 17:14-16)***

**This means that I should pour them in because they are part of the world but they don't *belong* to it. They are *in* the world, but they are not *of* the world. They don't have to think like people who don't love God.**

Pour the Froot Loops and Apple Jacks into the bowl with the Life cereal.

**But if they are to be mixed in with those people, Jesus prays that God will protect them from behaving like everyone else in the world that doesn't know God. They need protection from the evil one, who is Satan.**

### Third Question:

Hold up sign #3 - "Us today."

**Jesus prays for us. What does he pray?**

***"I'm not praying only for them. I'm also praying for those who will believe in me through their message."  
(John 17:20)***

**Who is that? It is you and I. Since those disciples told others, and others told others, and some of them told others, faith in Jesus has been passed through hundreds and hundreds of years. What does he pray for us that will protect us?**

- **He prays that we would be united with him and always believe God sent Jesus to us.**
- **He prays that he would live in us and we would live in him and we would be completely united with him and with each other.**

**Do you know how we can show that today? We can eat this snack to remind us that we have his life in us and even though we are in the world with nonbelievers, we don't have to think like they do.**

Pass out cereal for kids to eat.



## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

### Craft Activity

*Supplies: envelopes, markers, crayons, prepared Bible verses for encouragement and love, etc.*

Pass out card-making supplies. Say:

**Today we will practice praying for others just like Jesus prayed for us. When we pray for them, we will also write them a note. This note can encourage them by telling them that we prayed for them today and we hope that God draws them closer to himself. We even have envelopes to put the notes in, address them and mail them.**

**Now let's talk about some things we can pray for people so you can think about who you can pray for and make a card to send them.**

Discuss and make cards. Play quiet Christian music in the background while kids make cards letting these people know they are praying for them. When cards are finished, have students pray aloud for what is on their cards. You can also read and discuss the Bible verse:

***"I have made your name known to them, and I will make it known so that the love you have for me will be in them and I will be in them."*** (John 17:26)

**This means that the love God has for his Son Jesus is the love he has also given to us.**

In addition to the verses you have prepared ahead of time, kids should be encouraged to use related Bible verses if they know of some.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

## Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber and Power of the Cross:*

- cell phone or other phone with a speaker option.

## *Offering:*

- piece of paper that says “Jesus”
- offering plate

## *Bible Presentation:*

- video: *The Gospel of John*, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003, show the gospel of John chapter 17—order from [www.visualbible.com](http://www.visualbible.com)
- a box of Life cereal (Keep this cereal in the box to show its name.)
- a box of Froot Loops (in clear bowl)
- a box of Apple Jacks or Cheerios (in clear bowl)
- large, preferably clear, bowl for mixing all the cereals together
- three signs:
  1. Himself
  2. His disciples
  3. Us today

## *Witness and Tell:*

- card making supplies
  1. envelopes
  2. markers
  3. crayons
  4. prepared Bible verses
- background music

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# JESUS



# Himself

# His disciples

**Us  
today.**

## **Verses of Encouragement**

***I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD. They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give you a future filled with hope.***

*Jeremiah 29:11*

***I give thanks to you, because you have answered me.  
You are my savior.***

*Psalms 118:21*

***Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Place my yoke over your shoulders, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble. Then you will find rest for yourselves because my yoke is easy and my burden is light.***

*Matthew 11:28-30*

***I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love which Christ Jesus our Lord shows us. We can't be separated by death or life, by angels or ruled, by anything in the present or anything in the future, by forces or powers in the world above or in the world below, or by anything else in creation.***

*Romans 8:38-39*

***Finally, receive your power from the Lord and  
from his mighty strength.***

*Ephesians 6:10*

***Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Jesus Christ.***

*Philippians 4: 7*