# ALWAYS



#### BIG IDEA

Doubt and fear rule many children's lives today. Children need to know that God always hears their prayers and understands their thoughts. Always, without fail, He listens.

# KEY VERSES

I John 5:14

# MEMORY VERSE

I John 5:14

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

# PREPARATION & MATERIALS

# BIBLE SKIT

- Presented by one team member
- Props: two paper cups, tape, several rubber bands

# GAME

- Clothes pins
- 30-40 small objects that can be picked up with a clothes pin

#### CRAFT

- Experience Mission provides scissors, hole punch, stapler, staples, rulers
- Strips of old t-shirt fabric pre-cut in 1 inch strips (about 4 feet per child)

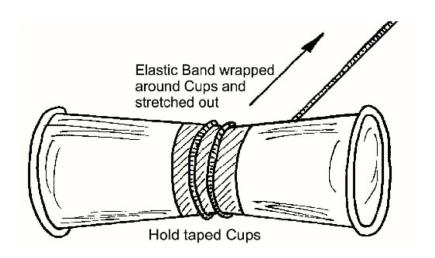
#### WORKSHEETS

Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



#### PREPARATION

Try this experiment several times until you can get the hang of making the cups fly. Youtube has a few videos showing this experiment in action. Place two paper cups base to base and tape them together. Join a number of elastic bands together to form a long chain. Wrap the elastic bands loosely around the cups so that the end finishes underneath the cups. Hold the cups horizontal up in the air and stretch the rubber band away from you, as if aiming the cups. Let go of the cups and pull back on the bands a bit. The cups should fly up and hover in the air for a while.



#### SCRIPT

(Use the following questions to generate a conversation about doubts and fears in the kid's lives) Have you ever been worried? Do you feel afraid in bed when you're alone in the dark? Do you fear tests at school? Is there someone in your life that you are afraid of? Do you fear the future? Is there a situation in your family that makes you afraid?

Often the problems in our lives are too big or too complex to solve. Or sometimes they just take patience and persistence. But if we are not careful they can cause us a lot of fear.

Do you believe that God knows everything? Do you know that he listens to every prayer from anybody in the whole world? Do you know that he understands what we are praying for and knows the need even better than we do? Or does prayer seem silly to you? Does it feel like wasted words that can't possibly reach heaven? Or maybe do you wonder if God really has the time to listen to your prayers? Or maybe you think your needs are so small that God doesn't really care?

Kids, God hears every single prayer, from every single person, always. The bible says a lot about prayer and there are tons of examples of God answering prayers in amazing ways. There is a verse toward the end of the bible that says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." It may seem impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Let's do a little experiment and do something impossible. I have two Styrofoam cups here. Do you think I can make them fly? Well, watch this.

I'm going to tape these two cups together. These cups are the fears and hopes that I want to tell God about. Now I'm going to hook these rubber bands together in a chain. The rubber bands are my prayers, having the faith to stop worrying and sending my fears and hopes to God. (Wrap the bands medium loosely around the cups so the end finishes underneath the cups.) Here we go, I'm going to aim these cups up in the air like a prayer to God. (Stretch the end of the rubber band chain away from your self and aim at an upward angle. Let go of the cups and pull back slightly on the rubber bands).

There they fly! Straight through the air where I aimed them. Prayer is even more efficient than that though. We don't need rubber band chains and we don't even need to aim our prayers. Prayer is a very, very easy act of faith. You simply need to trust that God hears and understands always. He knows your thoughts and what is in your heart. He knows all about your disappointments, fears, doubts, worries and hurts even before you pray. And he loves you.

God may answer your prayers immediately or he my choose a different time. He may answer your prayers exactly how you want them to be answered, or he may choose a different, better way. The important thing is that you pray and wait patiently for God's answer. He always hears you. Always.

Reproducible curriculum produced and written by www.sharonministries.org. Adapted visually and/or translated for use on short term mission trips by Experience Mission.

CRAFT lesson 10

#### CRAFT

#### OBJECTIVE: FINGER KNITTING BRACELET

Make a trendy bracelet from recycled t-shirts.

# DIRECTIONS

- This craft is easiest to learn by watching, search online for a tutorial for "two finger knitting"
- Slip fabric between ring finger and middle finger of right hand, leave 4 inches on palm and the rest behind hand
- Bring long tail up between pinky and ring finger. Then around pinky and up again between pinky and ring finger. Then down between ring and middle finger (you should have a figure 8 around pinky and ring fingers)
- Bring fabric behind both pinky and ring fingers and then around the front of pinky and ring fingers, then down again between ring and middle finger.
- Bend pinky finger and slip the lower loop over the top loop
- Bend ring finger and slip the lower loop over the top loop
- Repeat last 3 steps until bracelet is desired length.
- Tie ends together. Trim excess.

#### MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

• Scissors, staplers, hole punches

# MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

 Strips of old t-shirt fabric pre-cut in 1 inch strips (about 4 feet per child)

#### SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Cut fabric into 3 strips (18 inches long) and braid rather than knit.
- Tie a simple knots in a pattern.

#### EXAMPLE









GAME lesson 10

# • GAME •

# OBJECTIVE: CLOTHES PIN PICK-UP

Kids race to pick up the most objects using clothes pins

# MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- · Clothes pins
- 30-40 small objects that can be picked up with a clothes pin

#### DIRECTIONS

- Divide group into 2 or more teams
- Line up teams on one end of the play area
- Scatter small objects around the opposite end of the play area
- Teams send one runner at a time to pick up an object with a clothes pin and bring it back to the team
- Team with the most objects after 2 minutes of playtime wins (or team with the most objects when all the objects have been picked up wins).



lesson 10





God Hears and Answers Prayer