

# Intercessory Prayer

**OBJECTIVE:** *To recognize that Jesus and others intercede for us before God, and we can intercede for others.*



## WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about prayer that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

"Come Into His Presence"

"I Will Call Upon the Lord"

"Jesus Loves Even Me"

"Jesus Loves Me"

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

"Only by Grace"

"Standin' in the Need of Prayer"

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

"Whisper a Prayer"

## STORY

**Children Brought to Jesus for Prayer, Matthew 19:13-15**

- People bring their children to Jesus.
- Jesus' disciples tell the children to go away.
- Jesus tells the disciples to let the children come, and he blesses them.

Ask the adults to make a circle, and ask the children to sit outside the circle. As you read, ask the children to try to come into the circle but tell the adults not to let them. Then when Jesus tells the disciples in the story to let the children come, the adults let the children into the circle. Finish the story with the children sitting inside the circle.

## MEMORY VERSE

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).

Talk about the meaning of the word *hinder*. Help the children remember the verse by singing it to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me."

Let the lit - tle chil - dren come and do not hin - der them,  
 for the king - dom of heav - en be - longs to the chil - dren such as these.  
 Yes, Je - sus loves me. Yes, Je - sus loves me. Yes, Je - sus loves me, — the Bi - ble tells me so.

## ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story and to provide a springboard for discussion.

**Note:** When talking to children, it may help to refer to intercessors as people who pray for other people, places, or events. Jesus prayed for the children, so he was an intercessor. Romans 8:34 says that even now, Jesus "is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."



**OVER/UNDER RELAY.** Players line up behind each other in two teams. Give the first player on each team a ball. The object is to get the ball from the first player to the last player. The first player represents a person who needs God's help, the last player represents God, and the ball represents the message. Ask: "How might the message get to God?" On "Go," the first player passes the ball over his head, the second passes it under, through his legs, the third passes it over, so the ball goes over and under to the last person. The last person runs to the front of the line with the ball and the game continues until one team wins by making it back to their original lineup.

**COTTON BALL RELAY.** Players line up behind each other in two teams. Give each person a cotton ball. In front of each team, place a box far enough away so players can't possibly throw the cotton ball into the box. Each team must choose an intercessor. This person stands between his team and their box. When you say, "Go," the first person tries to throw the cotton ball into the box. The intercessor picks it up wherever it lands, puts it into the box, and then runs to the back of the line. The first thrower becomes the intercessor. The second person throws. Each team tries to be the first to get their cotton balls into their box. Talk about how an intercessor goes between others to help. Talk about what this means in prayer.

**LINE DESIGN.** Tell each person to put six dots at random on a sheet of paper. Then, using rulers, each person draws a line from each dot to every other dot to make a line design. Use plain or colored pencils or markers. Compare each dot to a person. Say: "Each person prays for the others. If the lines were prayers, how many prayers are being said in this picture?"

**CODE BREAKER.** Write down a code in which one symbol or shape stands for each letter in the alphabet. Choose one person to be the Code Breaker. Give the Code Breaker a copy of the code. Everyone else chooses a partner to work with. One partner looks at the code and writes something simple, like "Jesus loves me" or "happy birthday" in code. He then gives the message to his partner, without talking. The Code Breaker can show the code to the partners trying to decode the message. The Code Breaker is an intercessor. He goes between the two partners, helping them understand each other. Ask: "How was Jesus an intercessor between the children and God? How is he an intercessor now between you and God?"

## QUESTIONS

1. What is prayer?
2. What kinds of prayers are there?
3. When do you pray?
4. What is intercession? Why is it important?

## KIDS' COUNCIL

### BRING IT HOME

- If you were one of the children who was brought to Jesus, what do you think he would pray for you? What would you want him to pray for you?
- Read Romans 8:26, 27, 34. Who intercedes for us? What does that mean?
- Can you think of a person who intercedes for you?
- Can you think of a person, place, or event that you can intercede for? Who will you intercede for this week?

### SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other. Explain that when you pray for someone else, you are interceding for them.
- Thank God that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are interceding for them.
- Intercede for other people, places, or events.

## ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- Why do you need an intercessor? Read and discuss Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:23-25.
- Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 2:9-14. Why do we need the Holy Spirit to intercede for us? Read and discuss Romans 8:26, 27.
- Read and discuss Matthew 5:44; Ephesians 6:18; and 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Who should we intercede for?
- Do you know of someone who interceded for you as you were growing up? Do you think that made a difference in your life? If so, how?
- Share concerns and intercede for each other.

## SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

**Bread Sticks.** Let each child roll out one stick of dough from a can of refrigerated bread stick dough. Roll it in cinnamon and sugar. The child makes a thumbprint at each end of the stick and one in the center. Put some jelly in each thumbprint. Bake according to package directions. Say: "The thumbprint at one end represents someone who needs prayer, the print on the other end stands for God. You could be the one in the middle praying (interceding)."