

What Are You Discovering About Pray-ers? Small Group Activity



Preparation Time: 10 minutes

Teaching Time: 20 minutes

Materials:

For the small group leader:

- a Bible
- a copy of this activity
- a student booklet
- a container of pencils with erasers, colored pencils, or crayons
- a picture of J.O. Fraser (page OP-33) for each small group leader

For each child:

- a student booklet

Teacher's Note: You will need an adult helper to lead each small group of six to eight children.

Getting Started

1. Have enough adult small group leaders ready for each to oversee a group of six to eight children. Give each leader a Bible, a copy of this activity, a student booklet, a container of pencils, colored pencils, or crayons, and a picture of J.O. Fraser.
2. Divide the children into groups of six or eight children. Assign an adult small group leader to each group. Give the leaders the student booklets belonging to the children in their groups. Have each leader pass out the student booklets to the children and place the container of pencils, colored pencils, or crayons within reach. Then have them follow the teaching directions below.

Our Focus

1. Say to the children, ***“As we learn more about the role of Pray-er, remember that God wants all of us to do each of the six roles in some way. We will all pray, give, encourage or connect, welcome newcomers, send others, and share about Jesus. We can choose one role, though, as a way to obey Jesus in telling the whole world about him.”***
2. Then say, ***“Last time we met as a small group we said that God created us to do works, which he has prepared for us to do.”*** Read Ephesians 2:10 from the Bible. ***“We are God’s workmanship and he created us to do his work with him. There are many ways that God shows us which role we can do for him. One way is that you may really be interested or excited to do one of the roles. If you find one that you really want to do, this is probably God telling you that you could focus on this role and do it for him.”***
3. Tell the children, ***“Or God may use a Bible verse that you read or something that a teacher or parent says to show you what you can do. Remember that later on God may lead you to do something else for him. It is okay to do another role in the future.”***

What Are You Discovering About Prayers? (continued)

Introduction to J.O. Fraser – A Prayer Role Example

1. Say, ***“Today as we focus on the role of Prayer I am going to read you the story of a man named J.O. Fraser. It is a wonderful example of the power of determined and constant prayer. That means you have made up your mind to pray without giving up!”***
2. Now say, ***“These days we expect everything to happen quickly. We say things like, ‘Please let math class get over quickly so we can go out to recess!’ or ‘This microwave is cooking my pizza too slow!’ Prayer may sometimes feel like it does not fit into the ‘instant’ way we live. That is why many of us have a hard time being involved in prayer. If we don’t see quick answers, then we may feel it’s not worth the effort to pray.”***
3. Continue by saying, ***“As you listen to this story, I want you to think about what we have learned about prayer. Even though Mr. Fraser did not see instant answers to prayer, listen to how his prayers affected those around him. Listen to find out how his prayers made a difference for the future of the people he prayed for. Whether we see the answer to a prayer quickly or not, we still need to be faithful to take the time to pray, especially on behalf of the unreached peoples of the world.”***

J.O. Fraser’s Story

1. Hold up the picture of J.O. Fraser (from page OP-33) for the group to see.
2. Say, ***“J.O. Fraser was a missionary in China a long, long time ago. (It was in the early 1900’s.) He dedicated his life to working with the Lisu (lee-soo) people. He was there ten years before anyone gave his heart to Jesus. During those difficult years he became very discouraged. He questioned his work among the Lisu and wondered if God had really placed him there. And if God did, what was God’s purpose? Instead of returning to England, he turned to the Lord in prayer. He prayed to God and asked for people back home in England to join him in determined prayer for the Lisu. He believed that missionary work was done on his knees. Prayer was so important to God’s work that Mr. Fraser asked others to join him on their knees as well. He knew the power of prayer. And do you know what? God honored those prayers. Within a short time nearly 600 families became Christians.”***
3. Ask, ***“Who can tell me the name of the country where J.O. Fraser was a missionary?”*** (answer: China) ***“What was the name of the people group he worked with?”*** (answer: the Lisu)
4. Continue J.O. Fraser’s story by saying to the class, ***“Many years passed and J. O. Fraser died. But around 1988, a young man in China was asked by his government to go into a faraway place and translate some booklets that were written in English. They had been stored in a warehouse for many years. The government wanted to know what was written in these books. So, this young man, we will call him Chang, began translating these booklets from English to Chinese, one at a time. Who do you think had written those little booklets? J.O. Fraser! As Chang translated each booklet, he was stirred by the love of God that was written about in each one. He could hold back no longer and right there asked Jesus to become his Lord and Savior. Eventually he took a trip to the Lisu people. Do you know what he found? Christians! There were still Christians there! And there are Christians there to this day!”***
5. Ask the children, ***“Why do you think there are Christians among the Lisu?”*** (answer: God answered the prayers of many faithful people and blessed the efforts of J.O. Fraser)

What Are You Discovering About Prayers? (continued)

6. Now say, ***“After finishing the translation of the booklets, Chang returned home where he met an American man who was teaching English at a Chinese university. They quickly became friends. This teacher had the privilege of baptizing Chang. Their friendship continued as the teacher taught Chang more about God, Jesus, and the story of the Bible. Chang is a strong Christian now and shares the ‘good news’ with everyone he meets.”***
7. Say, ***“This story is a wonderful picture of how God uses prayer to bring people to know him. Remember how J.O. Fraser, along with others, prayed that the Chinese people would come to know Jesus as their personal Savior? Ten years passed before the first Lisu people in China became Christians. But the answers to those prayers didn’t stop in the Lisu area, God continued to answer those prayers long after Mr. Fraser died! We really do build upon each other’s work. One person cannot reach the world for God. We need one another; and prayer is a very important part!”***

Written Responses

1. Have the students take out their *God’s Got Stuff To Do!* booklets and turn to the “Prayer Discovery Page” (page 2).
2. Have someone read the journal entry from J.O. Fraser. When they are finished reading, say to the children, ***“What have we just learned about Mr. Fraser? How did God answer his prayers?”*** (Wait for responses.)
3. Say, ***“In your own words, what does J.O. Fraser’s term ‘work on our knees’ mean?”***

Possible Answers:

- When we pray, God works.
- The main work we do is to pray.
- Asking God to do his work is the key to our work.

Say, ***“Now below the question, ‘What does ‘work on our knees’ mean?’ Write what it means to you.”*** Again, if children aren’t able, let them tell you and have them just write a few words or draw a picture.

4. Say, ***“Now take your pencil and on the lines below the question, ‘How did God answer the prayers of J.O. Fraser?’ Write your answer.”*** Give the students time to write their answers. Feel free to help them with some ideas. If your children are not able to write their answers, ask them to tell you their answers. Help them think of one or two words that describe their answers and have them write those down. Or they may draw a picture to illustrate their answer.

What is God Showing You?

1. Say, ***“What is God showing you today about being a Prayerer? Think for a moment, then write down your answer on the lines under this question.”*** Let the children respond in their booklets. (If your children are not able to write their answers, ask them to tell them to you. If your children need help with a written response, have them think of one or two words that describe their answers and then write those down.)
2. Ask, ***“Do any of you have an interest in this role or think God might be leading you to be a Prayerer?”*** (Affirm their responses.)

What Are You Discovering About Prayers? (continued)

Prayer Time

When the students are finished, ask a child to pray. Then continue this prayer time by:

- asking God to remind the children of the difference their prayers can make in the lives of other people, just like the prayers of J.O. Fraser and his friends made a difference in the lives of the Lisu people.
- thanking God for the way we can talk to him about everything and everyone.
- thanking him that he hears and answers our prayers.

Game Time

Collect the student booklets and go into game time and play either “Caught Praying” or “Pray-er Partners” (pages OP-34 to OP-38).

Parent Letter Reminder

Give the Parent Letters to the children as they leave and remind them to tell their parents what they are learning. See “Parent Letter for Lesson 2” on page OP-39.