

**Focus:** Keep Praying

**Materials:**

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD-Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 2
- Bible: The Gospel story is in the Arch Book: The Unjust Judge
- Ping-pong ball
- Book: Teach me to pray

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

*Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about remembering to thank Jesus. This week Jesus tells us that if we pray God will help us make things right.*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

*Say: Now let’s put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*O God, you love us and take care of us. Thank you for listening to our prayers. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*God is So Good*, track: 2, from Bible Songs for Kids - Vol 2

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

God is so good.  
 God is so good.  
 God is so good.  
 He’s so good to me.

He’s all I need.  
 He’s all I need.  
 He’s all I need.  
 He’s so good to me.

He cares for me.  
 He cares for me.  
 He cares for me.  
 He’s so good to me.

God is so good.  
 God is so good.  
 God is so good.  
 He’s so good to me.

**Memory Verse**

*Say: Now let’s take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*Pray without stopping.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *Jesus teaches us that our prayers may not be answered right away or the way we thought they would be. But he still wants us to keep praying, to keep talking to God so that we don't give up. If we keep praying we will see what the answer to any problem is.*

### Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

**Read:** Arch Book: The Unjust Judge

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion Starters:

- *Why is the woman asking for help from the judge?*
- *Why is the judge not a good judge?*
- *What does the widow keep doing?*
- *What does the judge say?*
- *Why does the judge finally give the widow what she wants?*
- *What does the story teach about praying to God?*

### Reflection on Reading:

*In the Gospel story today Jesus helps his followers understand that God always listens to their prayers. Jesus tells a story about a widow and an unfair judge. The woman knew she needed help from the judge to make the situation right. Widows didn't really have any power in those days. She insisted on justice and fairness. When we see someone not being treated fairly we have to do something to help make things right again.*

*Jesus tells this story to help his listeners so that they will understand that they should not give up hope. The judge in the story did not want to hear from the widow, but God always wants to hear our prayers. God wants us to keep praying so we grow closer to him.*

### Gospel Activity

#### Activity 1:

##### **Hot Potato Praise**

Use a song from the CD for the opening and closing songs) Track 4-Get on Board Little Children or 26-I'm H-A-P-P-Y are a couple of good upbeat tunes. (Bible Songs-Vol 2)

Ping Pong Ball (for the potato)

Have the children sit in a circle, passing the “hot potato” as quickly as possible while the music plays. When the music stops, the player holding the “hot potato” must tell one thing we can do to show God’s love to others. When they are done, everyone else shouts: Praise God! –alternately with- Say a Prayer!

No one is “out” or has to leave the circle. Play continues as time permits.

### Activity 2:

#### **Special Conversations:**

When we say prayers we are talking to God. We are going to read a book about praying and what makes it special.

Read the book “Teach Me to Pray”

Prayer is special because we can say our prayers anywhere. We don’t have to say them just in church. We can say prayers before meals, when we wake up, at bed time.

See if they can think of other times to say prayers.

\*for action you can have the children switch places as the characters run from place to place. Then all kneel at the end.

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

### **Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: “I Believe!”)

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who speaks to us through the Bible stories?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who tells us to always pray to God?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to listen to God's word and to pray?*

### **Sending Forth**

*Say: Today is a good day to remember to pray to God always. This week make sure you find something to talk to God about each day. Sometimes you ask for something, sometimes you can say thank you, sometimes you can just tell him that you think he is great!*

### **Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play “*Fairest Lord Jesus*” track 19 from Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 2 while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.