***Sunday school materials.***

***Father’s day - Talking to our Heavenly Father.***

***Pawprints and Footsteps***

This session will talk about prayer – what it is and how we can do it!

Prayer can seem like hard work. Lots of people feel like they are not getting it right and that to be frank, there are more pressing things to do! It isn’t actually very fulfilling to sit in a room and talk to yourself about various things but then that’s not what prayer is about.

Prayer is a conversation – an ever-on-going one – between me and my Father God. And that *is* exciting.

Imagine the impact the children in our Church would have on the world around them if they really learned how to talk to God and hear him speak to them. That would truly be a rising generation – a generation of world shakers, a generation that ushers in the Kingdom…

***A Gentle calm start : DECORATE THE LORDS PRAYER***

Have a copy of the Lord’s prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) displayed or have a Bible to use.

Either ask the young people to copy out the Lord’s prayer or print out a copy for them then and then meditate on it by illustrating it. They can either focus on one part or try and illustrate all of it.

The Point: To get to know the Lord’s prayer by reading it and illustrating it.

***GAMES ABOUT COMMUNICATION 1: Back to back***

You need to do this game in pairs. Sit back to back on the floor. Give each person a pencil and piece of paper.

Ask one of the pair (A) to draw a simple picture/pattern on their piece of paper- give them a minute to do this.

(A) must then give instructions to (B) as to what to draw on their piece of paper so that both pictures are the same. However, (B) cannot look at (A)'s picture. The pair must remain back to back at all times. It is therefore very important that (A) communicates well with their partner.

After a few minutes allow the pair to share the pictures and evaluate how well the communication was.

Repeat the game with (B) drawing the pictures first.

**The Point:** To think about how important communication is and how much we communicate using words.

***GAMES ABOUT COMMUNICATION 2: The power of words - Ham and pepperoni.***

Ask children what they would find hard if they couldn't use words to communicate. For example, how would they ask how much things are in shops.

Use a mobile phone and ask them to pretend to order a pizza – without using words!

Then tell them they can use all words apart from ‘pizza'.

You then pretend to be the pizza shop employee and ask questions to get your group member to say pizza.

Repeat the game using different contexts, e.g. asking for a doctor's appointment without saying ‘doctor' or ‘appointment', or asking what films are on and at what time at the cinema without using the words ‘film' and ‘time'.

**The Point:** To understand the strength of the words we use and how we use them.

***BIBLE STUDY: REAL PRAYER***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3TtbmMYC3o&t=4s>

Use the clip to show Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane. (just use the first 2 minutes)

Ask children if they pray. What do they pray? When do they pray? What do they do? How are they feeling when they pray?

Ask what kind of prayers God likes?

Explain that God wants to hear every kind of prayer as long as they're REAL (honest) prayers.

At this point watch the clip from ***The Miracle Maker***.

Was Jesus' prayer honest?

How can we become more honest with God? Encourage the group to talk to God throughout their day, however they're feeling.

#### ***PRAYER WALL***

On large pieces of paper write:

Thank you for…

I'm worried about…

Can you help…

Please can you…

I'm scared about…

and any others that may be appropriate.

Attach the pieces of paper to walls around the room.

While playing some music encourage the children to write their prayers on the walls, they may want to write a word or a phrase or even draw something (they may want to use initials to disguise people's identity e.g. "please help S." )

Alternatively, you may want to write personal prayers on a piece of paper to keep to themselves. They can use the headings as starters to their prayers.

***MEMORY VERSE***: Prayer is mentioned hundreds of times in the Bible! There are about 650 actual prayers in the Bible too.

YOU CAN CHOOSE!! Or use one of these 2.

***Psalm 62:8 “Trust God, my friends, and always tell him each one of your concerns. God is our place of safety.”***

***Philippians 4:6 ‘Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.'***

Read the verse through a few times then create your own hand actions.

***Worship:*** Good good father.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE_l-Klp2Uk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxVadCcRfoI>

#### ***Handy Prayers.***

Everyone draws round one of their hands. Suggest that they use the different fingers to pray for different people and the palm to write prayers for themselves.

So having drawn round their hands ask them to write

* On the thumb – family
* On the first finger – their best friend(s)
* On the middle finger – other adults who are important to them
* On the fourth finger – anyone they know who is ill
* On the fifth finger – anyone else who they feel they should pray for
* On the palm – write a prayer about themselves e.g. saying thank you to God for what He’s given them or done for them, saying sorry for any bad stuff and saying please help for any problems that are bothering them.

Suggest they keep these as a reminder to continue to pray these prayers. (If you have time, they could cut the hands out and decorate them.)