Small Group Leader’s Guide  
Theme: Prayer

Date: 27/28 September 2014

Lesson 7: Praying in the Spirit

Objective: That the children will learn to pray in the Spirit.

Bible Text: Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:26

Memory Verse:  
At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God’s people.  
Ephesians 6:18 (NIRV)

Character / Virtue Focus: Perseverance

Introduction

We have started a new series on teaching the children on prayer. There will be various aspects of prayer that we will be covering such as “What is Prayer?” and “How to Pray?” Other topics include “Prayer Intercession” and “Praying in the Spirit”. Prayer is really the foundation of growing closer to God. If children can learn to lay hold of prayer earlier in their lives, we believe they will go through life more victorious. In the course of learning to pray, they can also develop the character of Perseverance. So leaders, let’s get on into this exciting journey with your kids. For this series, we want to specially acknowledge Karen Henley’s curriculum on Prayer and Mark Harper’s curriculum on Learning to Pray.

- Week 1 – What is Prayer?
- Week 2 – What do we pray?
- Week 3 – How do we pray?
- Week 4 – Praying the Psalms
- Week 5 – Prayer Intercession I
- Week 6 – Prayer Intercession II
- Week 7 – Praying in the Spirit

Platform Teaching (20 mins)

After Jesus had ascended into Heaven the disciples returned to Jerusalem and gathered in an upper room waiting for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus had promised. When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples were praying in one accord and suddenly they heard a sound as a strong rushing wind. Tongues of fire appeared and appeared upon each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues.

At that time, there were people from every nation, and they heard the disciples speaking in their own language. They were all amazed. Some of the people said, “Are not all these men from Galilee? How come we hear them speaking in our own language?”

This was the first time any believer had ever spoken in tongues. What were the disciples saying in other tongues? They were worshipping and praising God.
Let’s take a look at this video and see what actually happened on that day that the Holy Spirit came.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoiXpNbrgs

Why did God give the disciples of Jesus “tongues”? Why didn’t He just give them the power to just heal the sick? I believe the speaking in tongues do two things for us. It helps us to:

1) Control our tongues (Read Proverbs 10:19 aloud)

**Proverbs 10:19** “Those who talk a lot are likely to sin. But those who control their tongues are wise.”

2) Pray according to what God wants us to pray (Read Romans 8:26 aloud)

**Romans 8:26** “In the same way, the Holy Spirit helps us when we are weak. We don’t know what we should pray for. But the Spirit himself prays for us. He prays with groans too deep for words.”

Everyone can speak in tongues as God gives each one of us a mouth. Rather than using our mouth to swear or gossip, we can use our mouth to speak in tongues. We cannot speak in tongues and swear at the same time. If we speak in tongues, the Spirit of God is at work inside us. He will help us to control our anger so that we will not curse and swear at people who make us angry. Romans 8:26 says that we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit Himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us. The Spirit speaks to God with deep feelings that words cannot explain. When we speak in tongues, it is like God leading our tongues to pray. How many of you think that if God directs our tongues to pray, our prayers will definitely be heard? Of course!

**Releasing the children to speak in tongues (15 mins)**

**Logistics:** Music CD background (GKidz to provide)

**Ask the children:**

- How many of you can speak in tongues?
- How many of you would like to speak in tongues?

**Steps to releasing the children in tongues (This is what you say to the children)**

1) The Holy Spirit wants to give you the Gift of Tongues. It is a gift. It does not depend on whether you are smart or not, tall or short, pretty or ugly, fat or skinny, how often you go to church or
how often you pray to Him. However, you can only receive the gift if you are a believer, those of you who are friends with Jesus and have personally asked Jesus to come into their hearts.

2) You will need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and open your mouth to speak.

3) All the leaders will start to pray in tongues and you can try and follow.

4) Tongues cannot be imitated but when you hear the sounds and try to follow along, you are exercising your vocal muscles.

5) Then allow the Holy Spirit to speak through you.

6) Don’t stop, continue to speak louder.

7) Don’t be afraid of what your friends will think of you. They will join you to speak in tongues.

   Everyone who already knows how to speak in tongues and those of you who have already received the gift of tongues at Power Camp, I want you to pray along with your friends who are asking God for this gift.

8) I’m going to ask all of you to form a circle with your group.

9) Leaders please move around in the circle among the children to guide them along.

10) I am going to count to 3 and all the leaders will start speaking in tongues. Let’s do it together.

   After a short while, check with the children who just received the gift of tongues. If there are more who haven’t received, continue praying together, with all who just received the gift to join in and believe that everyone will receive.

   Some of the children may struggle with receiving tongues because they are fearful. Some may feel disappointed that they did not receive the gift of tongues. You can encourage them to persevere in asking and seeking for the gift of tongues.

   Ask the children if any of them heard from God or saw a vision or a picture. Ask them to come forward to share with the rest. Check what they heard first. Ask the leaders if they received anything from God as well.

**TL to say:** Children, we can also use this prayer language to pray for our friends. We are all going to persevere in prayer, and pray in tongues for 5 minutes for our friends to come for the Children’s Day Special next week. As we pray, we are going to believe that our friends’ parents will allow them to come, that their schedule will change around so that they can come, that their hearts will be ready to meet Jesus and follow Him.

Encourage the children to practice speaking in tongues at home and at GKidz, anywhere that they are. Like any language, the more we speak the more we will be fluent in speaking it. Please
caution the children that speaking in tongues is to be done privately and not publicly to show off. Pre-believing friends will be puzzled what they are doing and may find them weird. If they are praying for a pre-believing friend in person, please advise them to pray for them using a language that they can understand.

After you have released the children in tongues, have everyone pray in tongues for 5 minutes. This time, have the children to focus on the friends they will be inviting to GKidz for the Children’s Day Special.

**Character / Virtue Focus: Perseverance (5 mins)**
Perseverance is sticking to something and being committed to do it. This week, encourage the children to pray 5 minutes a day using the gift of tongues.

**Small Group Time (15 mins)**
Leaders, have a time to debrief with the children about praying in tongues. Ask those who received the gift of tongues to share their experience. Encourage those who have not received to keep asking God.

**Leader to say:** We’ve spent almost the past two months learning about prayer and practicing how to pray.

- What are some of the things that you remember learning about prayer?
- What are some of things that you’ve started to do differently since this lesson? How have you prayed differently at home?
- What are some things that you would like to work on to be an even stronger prayer warrior?