

Date: 9-30-18

Theme: A Life of Prayer

Scripture: James 5: 13-20

Materials and Preparation:

- a. Print a copy of the paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer (page 3) and bring it with you to class.
- b. Make a copy of the Prayer Verses (page 4 below). Before the class meeting, use scissors to separate the verses and place them in a bowl or basket. (Note: depending on the average attendance, it might be good to hold a second set of the prayer verses in reserve.)
- c. Make a poster about the four kinds of prayer. Page 5 (below) *illustrates* the poster, but use a large poster board so there will be room to write the students' prayers under the differing categories of prayer. (You could also use one of the large sheets of paper on the easel in the resource room.)
- d. You'll need a magic marker or Sharpie (to write the students' examples of prayers on the poster).
- e. Predicting attendance is always difficult, but bring plenty of copies of the Prayer Box sheet (page 6 below), one for each student.
- f. Each student will need scissors to cut out the pattern for the Prayer Box.
- g. Have several rolls of scotch tape on hand for use in constructing the Prayer Boxes.
- h. Each student will need a pen or pencil.
- i. Bring paper for students to write short prayers on. Use small note-pad paper or divide letter-size paper into fourths. (Students can use scissors to trim any excess paper off of these written prayers.)
- j. The New Revised Standard Version of today's Bible text is copied for your convenience on page 7 below; it may be of interest to you as background information.

Vocabulary Words: prayer, confession, request

Objective: To help students understand that they can and should pray anytime, anywhere, about anything.

Opening: Today we are going to think about prayer and why it is important for each of us.

Read the Lord's Prayer together. Then discuss its meaning. It may help to compare the Lord's Prayer with a paraphrase: *Dear God, may everyone honor you! May everyone love and obey you, as do those in heaven. Please give us what we need to live well for today. Forgive us for our sins. Keep us away from anything that would lead us to sin. We praise you as the Ruler of All! Amen.*

[You can print a copy of the paraphrase using page 3. Hold it up for the students to see as you discuss the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.]

Reading:

What is prayer? Do you pray? Why pray—what is the purpose of praying?

Read James 5: 13-20 aloud (*Whirl Story Bible*). Then have students reread the passage, taking turns reading paragraphs.

Prayer verses: The Bible says a lot about prayer. Ask the students to select a verse about prayer (without looking) from the bowl (or basket) containing the prayer verses. Then have each student read his or her verse to the class. Briefly discuss the meaning of each verse.

Prayer Poster. Using the poster on prayer, point out that there are different kinds of prayer.

1. Praise (praising God)
2. Thanks (thanking God)
3. Confession (saying you are sorry)
4. Request (asking for help for yourself and others)

Ask the students to give an example or two of each type of prayer. As the students provide examples, write them on the poster, using a magic marker or Sharpie.

Activity: Have each student make a prayer box (see page 6 below). Then ask each student to name someone they can pray for in the coming week. (Help them to think about what to pray for.) Then have the students write the prayer down, fold it up, and place it in their prayer box *along with their Bible verse on prayer.*

Closing: Encourage the students to use their prayer boxes every day in the coming week. Also encourage them to keep their prayer boxes in a safe place—we will write new prayers to put in the boxes from time to time. Finally, offer a short prayer asking God to help us all remember to pray often every day.

Offering: Use the poster on prayer. Have one student hold the poster up high so the congregation can see it. Ask a volunteer to say something along these lines: “We learned that there are four kinds of prayer. We can praise God. We can thank God. We can confess our sins to God and be forgiven. And we can make requests: we can ask God for help, both for ourselves and for others.” (Be sure to have the students rehearse the offering before they go before the congregation.)

Lord's Prayer: Paraphrase

Dear God, may everyone honor you! May everyone love and obey you, as do those in heaven. Please give us what we need to live well for today. Forgive us for our sins. Keep us away from anything that would lead us to sin. We praise you as the Ruler of All! Amen.

PRAYER VERSES

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Philippians 4: 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
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James 5: 16 The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.
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1 Peter 5: 7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.
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Matthew 7: 7 Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.
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Psalms 66: 20 Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.
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1 John 1: 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
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Colossians 4: 2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.
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1 Thessalonians 5: 17-18 Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
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Proverbs 3: 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
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James 1: 5 If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.
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Four Kinds of Prayer

Praise

(Praising God)

Thanks

(Thanking God)

Confession

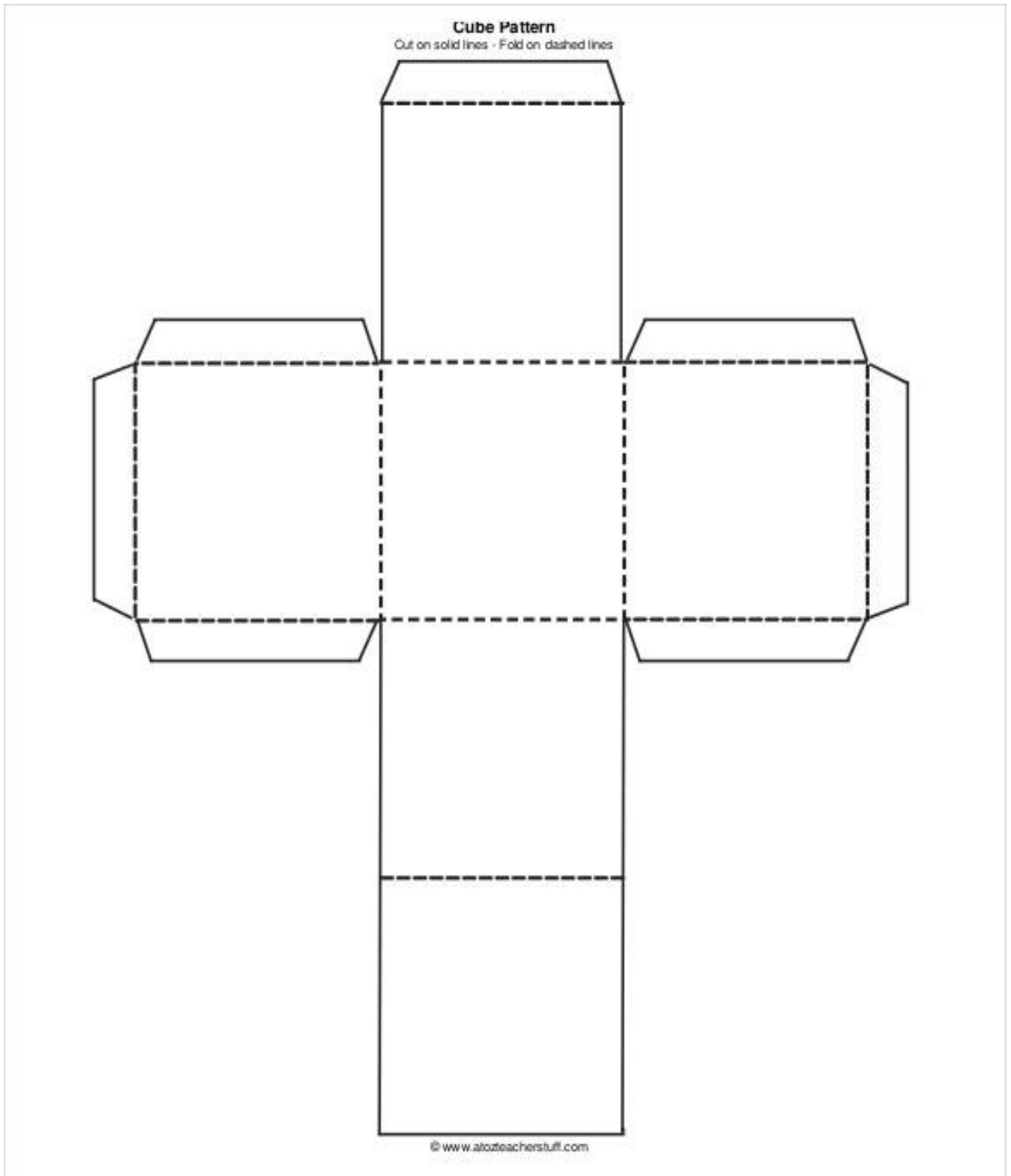
(Saying you are sorry)

Request

(Asking for help for
yourself and others)

Prayer Box

Instructions: Cut out the pattern. Write **Praise**, **Thanks**, **Confession**, and **Request** on the sides of the box. Tape the box together leaving the top open. Insert your Bible verse and prayer into the box.



Teachers: The New Revised Standard Version of today's Bible lesson is copied here for your convenience, as helpful background information. (The NRSV stays much closer to the original Greek text than does the *Whirl Story Bible*.) I do not recommend having the students read from the NRSV but it may be of interest to you.

James 5: 13-20 (NRSV) ¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. ¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰ you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.