

Isaac and Rebekah

Lesson Objectives

- The students will identify how the faith of each character was shown by the character's actions.
- The students will describe prayers that God answered.
- The students will identify a person for whom to pray.

Lesson Text

Genesis 24

Scripture Memory Verse

Delight yourself in the LORD
and he will give you the desires of
your heart.

Psalm 37:4

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Story Crossword

Welcome and Singing

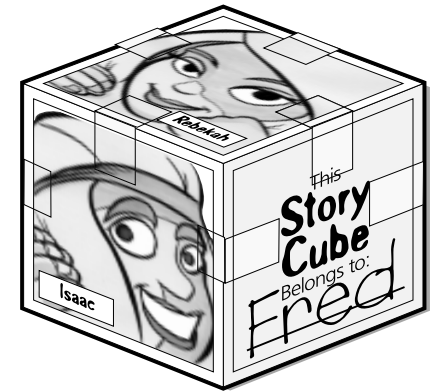
Centers:

Bible Story: Powerful Prayers

Craft: Story Cube

Scripture Memory: Crazy Phrases

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



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Isaac and Rebekah

Story Crossword

The students will preview important ideas and events from today's Bible Story of Isaac and Rebekah.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Complete a Story Crossword from your copy of Page A prior to class.

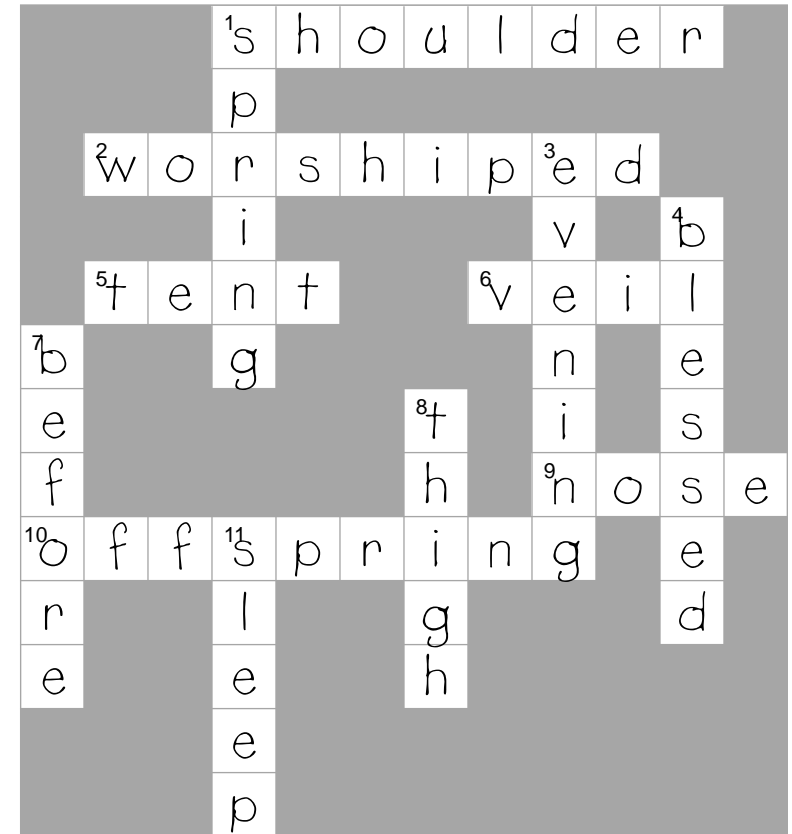
Instructions

1. As the students arrive, distribute copies of Page A and the pencils. Tell the students to turn to Genesis 24 to help them complete the puzzle.
2. Encourage the students to work together.
3. Circulate among the students to offer assistance. Tell them that today's Bible Story is about Isaac and Rebekah.
4. Allow the students to check their answers with the answer key after they are finished.

Teacher Tips

- Know your students. Help pair the students who may have difficulty with others who can help.

Answer Key



Isaac and Rebekah

Powerful Prayers

The students will consider the faith and obedience of Abraham, Abraham's servant, and Isaac and Rebekah, as they listen to today's Bible Story.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 index card, 3" x 5"
- pencil

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- 1 large square-shaped scarf or shawl

Preparation

1. Practice telling the Bible Story at home.
2. Practice wearing the scarf as shown in Figures A-D.
3. Prepare the index cards for each student by writing: Rebekah, Isaac, Servant, and Abraham in each corner.

Presenting the Prayers

Introduce the Bible Story by saying: *Today's lesson comes from Genesis 24. In this story, Abraham sends his servant to another country to find a wife for his son Isaac. You are going to hear four different prayers to God. I am going to pretend to be four people praying—Abraham, Isaac, Abraham's servant, and Rebekah. You have to guess who I am! Listen carefully to the prayers I pray and then guess which of the four people I am.* Distribute the index cards and pencils to the students. Point out the four characters on the cards. After you pray one prayer, the students will circle the name of the person they think you are, and then write the number of the character underneath. For example, if they think you are Rebekah in the first prayer, they circle "Rebekah" on the card and write a "1" underneath.

Praying the Prayers

Begin by saying: *Listen carefully to each of the prayers. As soon as you know who I am during the first prayer, circle my name on the card and write a "1" underneath. During the second prayer, circle my name and write a "2." Do this for all four prayers and at the end we will see if you guessed correctly.*



Figure A

Wear the scarf draped around your neck as shown for Abraham in Figure A. As you pray, pace slowly back and forth with your eyes toward heaven. Pray: *O God of heaven, you have blessed me with a very long life. You gave me a son when I was one hundred years old. You have given me great promises and made me a wealthy man. I praise you and I am full of gratitude for all you have done. Today, I pray for my son Isaac to find a wife. I ask you to bless my servant so that he can find a wife for my son who will fear God and love my son. Please give my servant success on his journey. Amen.* (Abraham) Tell the students to circle the name of the person on the card that they think you are and to write a "1" under the name. Tell them to listen carefully to your next prayer.



Figure B

Wear the scarf over your head as shown for Isaac in Figure B. Kneel down with your head bowed and your arms lifted up. Be sure that the students can hear you. Pray: *Praise be to the God of my father Abraham. You have blessed him and have made his name great. You have been faithful to all your promises to him. You have given him success and great joy. O Lord of heaven, today I pray that you will grant me a wife. I ask that you will give me a woman who loves you and who will help me. Please bless my father's servant with success on his journey to find a wife for me.* (Isaac) Remind the students to circle the name of the person on the card that they think you are and to write a "2" under the name. Tell them to listen carefully to your next prayer.



Figure C

Wear the scarf on your head as shown for Rebekah in Figure C. Stand, holding the scarf close to your face, looking toward heaven. Pray: *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. He gives me the desires of my heart! I thank you God for your goodness and kindness to me. Today you have blessed me more than I can even imagine. I am going to a far-away place to marry the son of a great and faithful man. You have led this servant for many miles just to find me!*



3rd and 4th Grades

Isaac and Rebekah

You chose me of all the other women to be a wife for Isaac. Truly you have blessed my family with this great honor. Thank you that my family will allow me to go and be married. Please be with me so that I will honor you in my marriage. Amen. (Rebekah) Remind the students to circle the name of the person on the card that they think you are and to write a "3" under the name. Tell them to listen carefully to the last prayer.



Figure D Wear the scarf slung over your shoulder as shown for the Servant in Figure D. Stand with your eyes looking to heaven. Pray: *O Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink and I'll water your camels too'—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.* (Servant) Remind the students to circle the name of the person on the card that they think you are and to write a "4" under the name.

Reviewing the Story

1. Ask the students who they think the first person was. Tell them it was the prayer of Abraham.
Ask: *Did God answer Abraham's prayer? (Yes) What did Abraham do to show his faith in God? (He sent his servant because he believed God would find a wife for Isaac.)*
Tell the students that it is not an actual prayer recorded in the Bible, but that Abraham may have prayed like this before he sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac.
2. Ask the students who they think the second person was. Tell them it was the prayer of Isaac.
Ask: *Did God answer Isaac's prayer? (Yes) What did Isaac do to show his faith in God? (He waited for the servant to return because he believed God would use the servant to find him a wife. He did not just marry anyone because he wanted someone who would love and obey God.)*
Tell the students that it is not an actual prayer recorded in the Bible, but that Isaac may have prayed like this while he was waiting for the servant to return.

3. Ask the students who they think the third person was. Tell them it was the prayer of Rebekah.
Ask: *Did God answer Rebekah's prayer? (Yes) What did Rebekah do to show her faith in God? (She believed that God sent the servant to take her back to marry Isaac. She left her family and traveled to a new land.)*
Tell the students that it is not an actual prayer recorded in the Bible, but that Rebekah may have prayed like this after the servant told her about Abraham and Isaac.
4. Ask the students who they think the last person was. Tell them it was the prayer of the Servant.
Ask: *Did God answer the Servant's prayer? (Yes) What did the Servant do to show his faith in God? (He asked God to show him exactly which girl he wanted Isaac to marry.)*
Tell the students that this is the actual prayer as recorded in the Bible. It is found in Genesis 24:12-14.

Sharing with Others

We saw some awesome examples of prayer and faith today! I think that Abraham's servant must have been so excited after God answered his prayer that he told everyone! Don't you love to tell people good news...like when you get a new game or take a family trip or get a baby brother? God gives us lots of good news to share. Can you think of someone who needs to hear some good news? Why don't you share about today's Bible Story with that person?
Close with a prayer.

Teacher Tips

- Practice makes perfect! Prepare to present the prayers as if they were your own.



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Isaac and Rebekah

Story Cube

The students will make Story Cubes that will remind them of the powerful prayers from today's Bible Story.

Materials

For each student:

- crayons or colored pencils
- glue or tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

NOTE: Make copies on heavy-stock paper for a sturdier cube.

Preparation

1. Make a model of the craft to show to the students.
2. Cut out the Story Cube forms for the students in advance.

Instructions

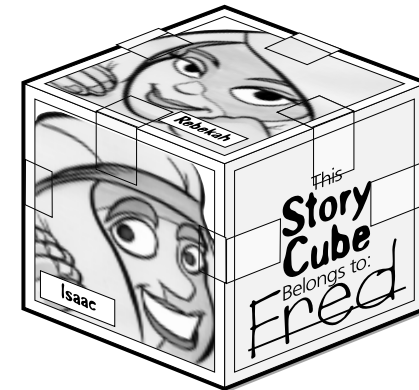
1. Show the students your model of the Story Cube.
2. Show them the precut Story Cube forms. Read the name on each square aloud.
3. Explain that each square refers to a different character in today's Bible story about Isaac and Rebekah.
4. Give each student a precut cube form. Have the students write their names in the space provided.
5. Tell the students to color and decorate the cubes.
6. To assemble the blocks, have students fold along all dashed lines to create the "sides" of the blocks. See Figure A.
7. Then have the students bring all the sides together, with the pictures facing outward, to form a cube. See Figure B.
8. Help students apply tape to hold the sides together. See Figure C.

Conclusion

Ask the students to share about a prayer that God answered for them or someone they know. Close with a prayer of praise for all the prayers God has answered.

Teacher Tips

- Some students will have difficulty with the precision required in this activity. Be prepared to offer assistance.



Isaac and Rebekah

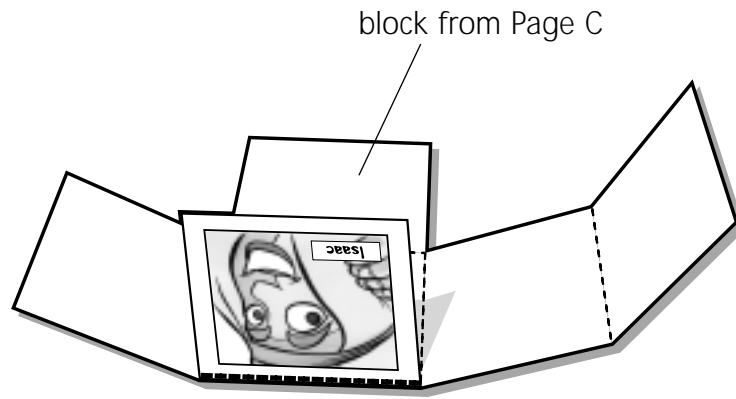


Figure A

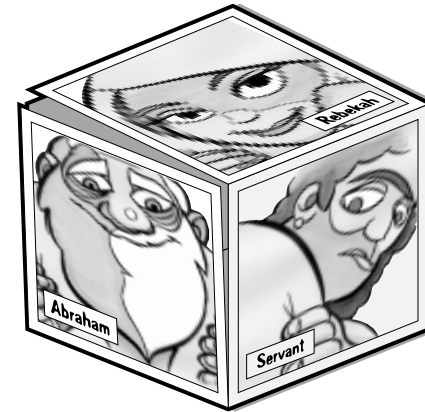


Figure B

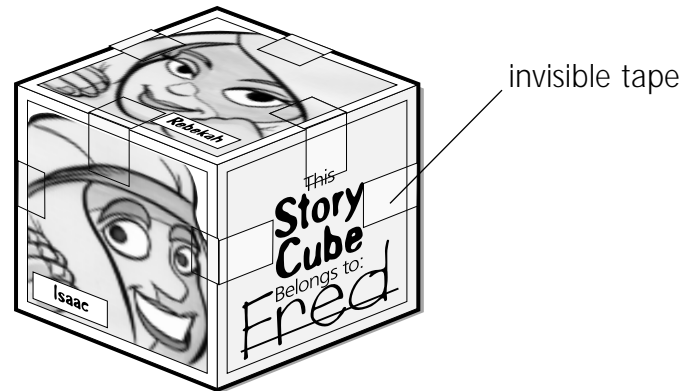


Figure C

Isaac and Rebekah

Crazy Phrases

The students will learn today's memory verse through a fun activity of mixed-up phrases.

Scripture Memory Verse

Delight yourself in the LORD
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

Materials

For each student:

- scissors
- crayons or colored pencils
- 1 glue stick
- 1 piece of construction paper, approximately 9" x 12"
- 1 piece of white, lined paper, 8½" x 11"

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Make a model to show to the students.

Instructions

1. Introduce the memory verse by saying: *In today's Bible Story, we learned about some people who had great faith. Each one of them asked God for something special. God heard their prayers and he gave them the desires of their hearts. The Bible tells us that if we delight ourselves in the Lord, he will give us the desires of our hearts. Who can tell me what it means to delight ourselves in the Lord? (It is when we love God so much that it makes us happy.) Who can tell me what desires of the heart are? (They are things that we want very, very much.) The people in today's Bible Story loved God very much and tried to please him. God loved them very much and he answered their prayers—which made them happy! Say the memory verse to the students, and have them repeat it back to you. Do this three times.*
2. Distribute copies of Page C, the scissors, glue sticks, and the construction paper to the students.

3. Tell the students to cut apart all of the squares on Page C and to rearrange them into the correct order of the memory verse. Have them arrange the pieces on the construction paper.
4. The students may look in their Bibles to check the verse.
5. When they have the verse in the correct order, tell them to glue it to the piece of construction paper. Be sure that their names are on the papers.
6. Distribute the white, lined paper to the students and have them write the verse three times on the paper.
7. When the students have finished writing the verse, invite each one to say the verse to the group from memory.

Conclusion

Go around in a circle and ask the students to each name one thing that they really want. It does not have to be an object, but rather a situation to change, i.e. a better relationship with a brother or sister. Close with a prayer for each student (by name) to delight himself in the Lord.

Teacher Tips

- Encourage all attempts to share, being sensitive to visiting students who may feel uncomfortable. Do not allow the students to make fun of one another.
- Be sure to know your students' names. It makes a difference!

Delight yourself in the LORD
and he will give you the
desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

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Lesson Text

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and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Prayer Journals

Welcome and Singing

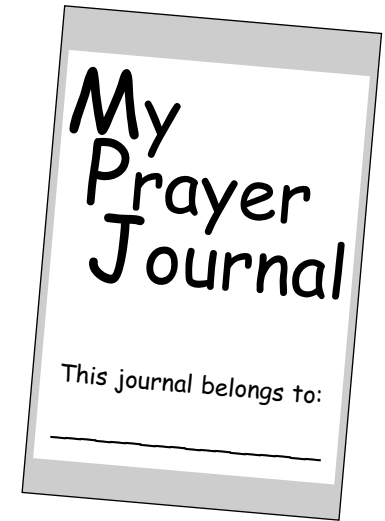
Centers:

Life Application: Pray What?

Game: Go Pray!

Bible Skills: Teach Us to Pray

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



Prayer Journals

The students will make and decorate journals to record their prayers, prayer requests and other thoughts about prayer.

Materials

For each student:

- 5 pieces of plain white paper, 8½" x 11"
- 1 piece of colored construction paper, 9" x 11"
- crayons, markers or colored pencils
- assorted stickers, stencils, or decorations for paper

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- stapler

Preparation

1. Make one journal as a model.
2. Write "My Prayer Journal" on a large writing surface for students to use as a guide.

Instructions

1. As students arrive, explain that they will be making Prayer Journals. They will use the journals during their Life Application activity and at home to record their prayers.
2. Distribute the white paper, construction paper, crayons, and stickers.
3. Tell the students to fold the white papers in half, making a small booklet (5" x 8").

4. Tell the students to fold the construction paper in half, in the same way, to make the covers.
5. Help them to place the white paper inside the covers and to staple them together on the folds.
6. Have the students write "My Prayer Journal" on the covers, using the words you wrote down before class as a guide.
7. When they each have a stapled booklet, have the students decorate their journals with crayons and stickers.
8. Give the journals to the Life Application teacher at the end of preclass.



3rd and 4th Grades

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Pray What?

The students will think about their prayers and identify for which people and situations to pray.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- Prayer Journals made in the preclass activity

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Complete your copy of Page D prior to class.
2. On the large writing surface, copy the questions from Page D, leaving a space beside each to record students' answers.

Life Application

Seat the students in a circle. Lead a discussion using the questions from Page D. Write the students' answers on the large surface where they can see them.

Distribute copies of Page D. Tell the students to complete the questions using their answers from the discussion.

Have the students fold their papers and put them inside their Prayer Journals. Explain that the papers will help to give them ideas for when they pray at home.

Conclusion

After completing the activity, the students should have an opinion about their prayer lives. Ask the students what they learned about themselves from doing the activity. Close by letting the students each ask God for help in their prayer lives.

Teacher Tips

- Bring in your own quiet time or prayer journal to show to the students. Get advice about how to share your personal experiences with this age group.

Pray What?

Name: _____

1. Why do you pray? _____
2. For whom do you pray? _____
3. Have you ever had a prayer answered? What was it? _____

4. Does your family pray together? _____
5. Where is your favorite place to pray? _____
6. If you could ask God any question, what would it be? _____

7. Do you believe that God hears your prayers? _____



Go Pray!

The students will identify different relationships in their lives to pray about.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 deck of regular playing cards (to be used permanently for this game)
- scissors
- invisible tape or glue

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 4 copies for the teacher

Preparation

1. Prepare a deck of Go Pray! cards:
 - A. Cut out the Go Pray! card “faces” from your copies of Page E. You should have fifty-two.
 - B. Tape or glue each Go Pray! card face onto the “face” of each card from the regular deck.
2. Practice playing the game prior to class.

Instructions

1. The game is played like the popular card game “Go Fish” and works best with groups of up to six students. The object of the game is to be the first player to match all the cards in her hand. The player with the most pairs at the end wins.
2. Shuffle the cards and deal each player seven cards. Place the remaining cards face down in the middle.
3. Have students remove any matching pairs from their hands and set them aside.
4. Choose a student to go first. She may ask any other student for a card to match one of the cards in her hand. For example, if she has a Faithful Friend card, she can say to any student: “I need a faithful friend, do you have one?” If the player has a Faithful Friend card, he must give up his card. If he does not, then he says, “Go pray!” The first player then says, “I pray to get a Faithful Friend,” and she draws a card from the middle.



5. Be sure that the students ask for the cards as specified in Step Four, reinforcing the idea that they need to pray about specific relationships in their lives.
6. Play continues until all of the cards have been drawn from the middle or until all players have matched their cards. The player with the most pairs wins.
7. Play as many hands as time permits.

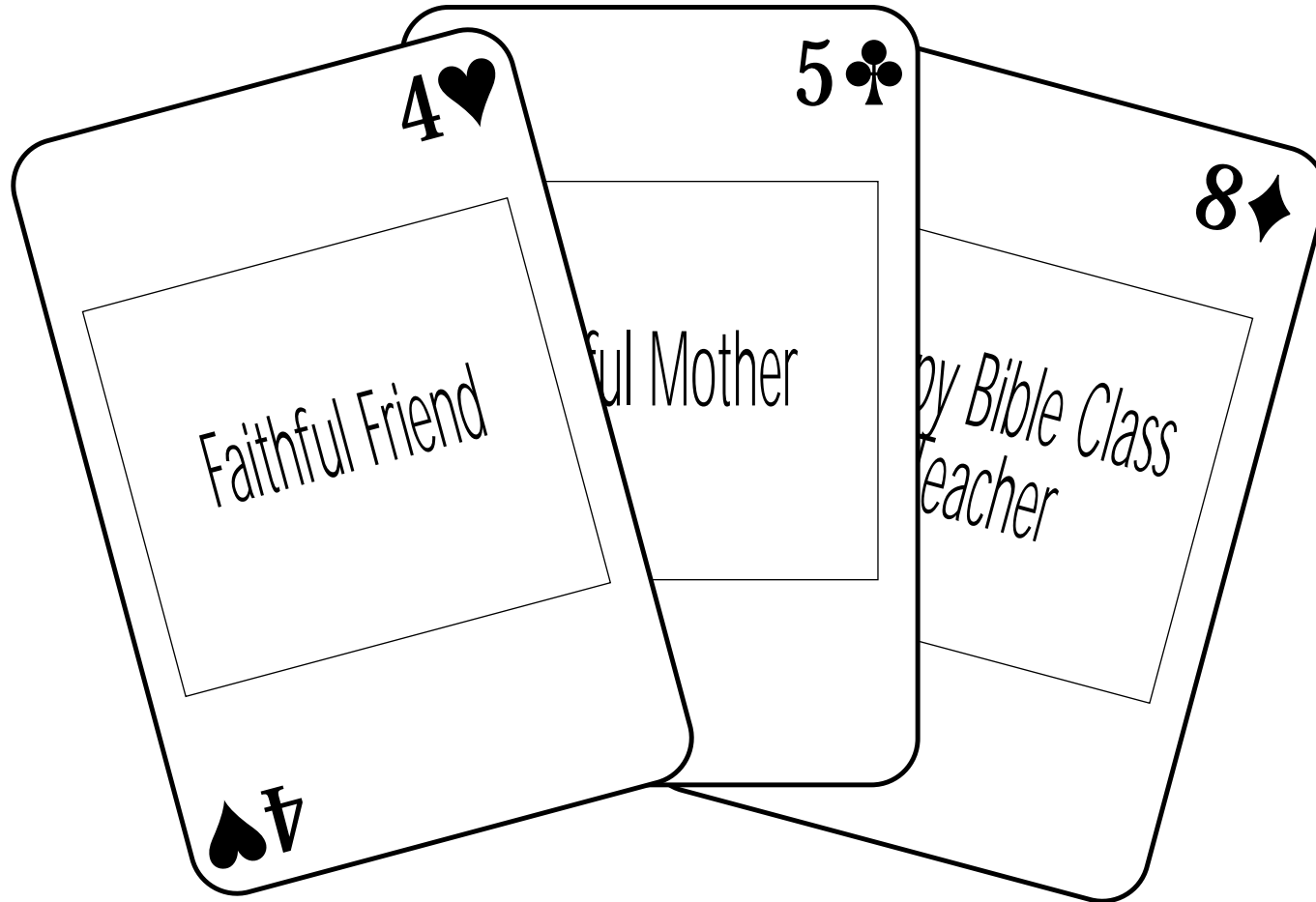
Conclusion

Go around the circle and ask the students to name someone they will pray for this week.

Teacher Tips

- If you have more than six students in a group, ask the students to play, or to take turns as pairs.
- The set of cards can also be used to play a Memory Game as an extra preclass activity. See the instructions from the Unit 1 Lesson 1 Core Preclass Activity.
- To create a more permanent set of cards, consider laminating the card faces onto the playing cards.

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Teach Us to Pray

The students will look at the way Jesus taught his disciples to pray and then write their own prayers to God.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Reproducible Pages:

- Page F, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. On the large writing surface, draw four boxes with room for the students' responses.
2. Complete the activity on your copy of Page F prior to class.

Instructions

1. Open your Bible to Luke 11:1-4. Tell the students that they are going to learn how to pray, saying: *Even Jesus' disciples needed to learn how to pray! They asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Today, you are going to learn how to pray just like they did.*
2. Ask the students: *What are some things that are totally awesome about God?* (He created the universe; he knows all the hairs on our heads; he loves us so much.) Write the students' answers in one of the four boxes.
3. Ask the students: *What are some things that we need every day?* (food, water, air, clothes, other people) Write the students' answers in another box.
4. Ask the students: *What are some things that we do that we know that we should not do?* (lie, disobey, refuse to share) Write the students' answers in another box.
5. Ask the students: *What are some things that you need God's help to do?* (be kind; obey with a good attitude; tell the truth) Write students' answers in the last box.

6. Distribute copies of Page F and the pencils to the students, saying: *Let's look at the way Jesus taught his disciples to pray.* (Refer to the first section on Page F.) *Jesus called his father's name "hallowed," which means holy. Jesus knew that God is awesome and powerful. Write something that you think is awesome about God in the space provided for you.* (For each of the following sections, refer the students to their responses from the discussion.) *Jesus asked God for daily bread. He knew that God provides the things we need every day. Write something that you need every day in the space provided. Jesus told the disciples to ask God for forgiveness for their sins. Can you think of something for which you need forgiveness? Write it in the space provided. Jesus told the disciples to ask God for help so that they would not be tempted. What is something for which you need God's help? Write it in the space provided.*
7. After the students have filled in the four sections of Page F, tell them to write a prayer to God at the bottom of the page. Encourage them to think of it as a letter to God. Circulate among them to help with spelling and questions.

Conclusion

Have the students sit in a circle and pray their prayers, one at a time. Tell them how excited you are that they are learning to pray to God. Encourage them to share their prayer with their family.

Teacher Tips

- Some students will be embarrassed to pray. Encourage silent prayers, or pair a timid student with a confident student so that everyone feels successful.



My Prayer to God

1. Something awesome about God: He knows everything about me.
2. Something I need every day: Food
3. Something for which I need forgiveness: I didn't clean my room yesterday
4. Something I need God's help to do: Forgive my little sister for losing my mitt

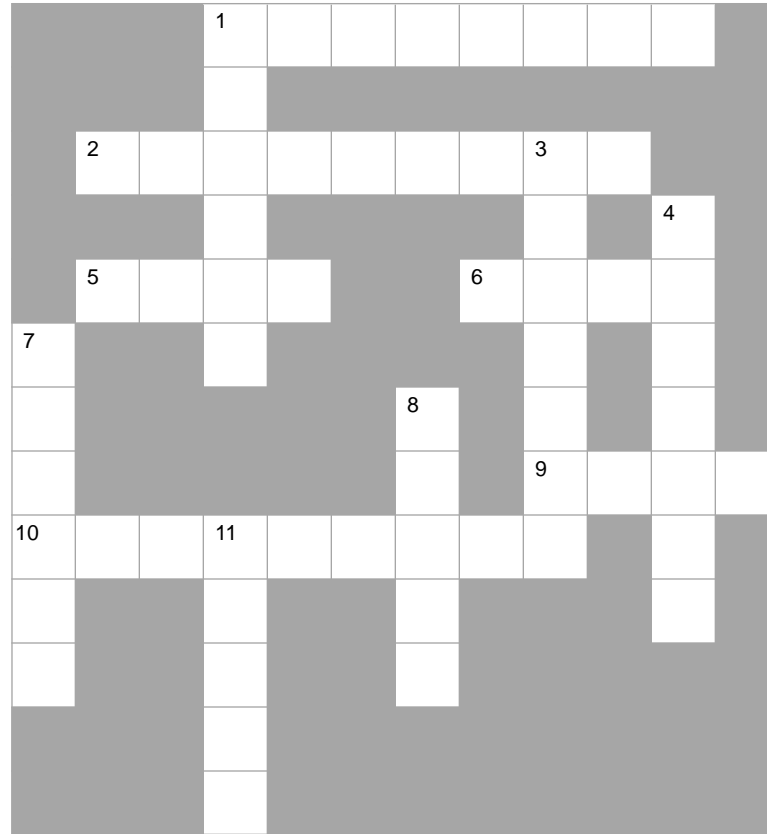
In the space below, write your own prayer to God. Use the ideas above to help you.

Dear God,
 It's so awesome how you know everything about me. Thank you for giving me food every day. You know exactly what I need.
 Please forgive me for leaving a mess in my room. I know I made Mom unhappy. When she's unhappy I know you're unhappy.
 Oh, and please help me to forgive Susie for losing my mitt. She doesn't know how much it means to me.
 I love you, Brian



Core/Preclass

1 copy for each student



Across

1. Rebekah arrived at the well carrying a jar of water on her _____ (v.15 and 45)
2. Abraham's servant did this to God after he met Rebekah (v.26)
5. Isaac married Rebekah in a _____ (v.67)
6. Rebekah put on one of these before meeting Isaac (v.65)
9. Abraham's servant put a ring in Rebekah's _____ (v.47)
10. God promised to give land to Abraham's _____ (v.7)

Down

1. Where Abraham's servant met Rebekah (v.16)
3. Time of day the servant arrived at the well outside of Nahor. (v.11)
4. The Lord _____ Abraham in every way (v.1)
7. God answered the servant's prayer _____ he was finished praying (v.15)
8. Abraham's servant swore an oath by placing his hand under here (v.2 and 9)
11. Rebekah invited Abraham's servant and his men to _____ at her father's house (v.23)



Core/Craft

1 copy for each student (on heavy stock)

This Story Cube Belongs to:

Abraham

Servant

Rebekah

Isaac

<p>Core/Scripture Memory 1 copy for each student</p> <p>will give</p>	<p>heart.</p>	<p>37:</p>
<p>and he</p>	<p>Delight</p>	<p>in the LORD</p>
<p>of your</p>	<p>you</p>	<p>yourself</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>the desires</p>	<p>Psalm</p>

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Pray What?

Name: _____

1. Why do you pray? _____

2. For whom do you pray? _____

3. Have you ever had a prayer answered? What was it? _____

4. Does your family pray together? _____

5. Where is your favorite place to pray? _____

6. If you could ask God any question, what would it be? _____

7. Do you believe that God hears your prayers? _____



Go Pray! Cards

Faithful Friend	Fruitful Family	Nice Neighbor	Sharing Sister
Terrific Teacher	Kind Classmate	Faithful Father	Joyful Mother
Patient Brother	Faithful Husband/Wife	Happy Bible Class Teacher	Friend with Whom to Read the Bible
	Time with God		



CorSup/CentrNam

1 copy for each student

My Prayer to God

1. Something awesome about God: _____

2. Something I need every day: _____

3. Something for which I need forgiveness: _____

4. Something I need God's help to do: _____

In the space below, write your own prayer to God. Use the ideas above to help you.

