

Seeking God

Lesson Objectives

- The students will state that pleasing God is more important than pleasing people.
- The students will identify that giving and praying are ways to seek God.
- The students will plan a special time with God this week.

Lesson Text

Matthew 6:1-15, 25-33

Scripture Memory Verse

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Prayer Pins

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: True Rewards

Craft: 'Pleasing God' Pinwheel

Scripture Memory: All These Things

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



3rd and 4th Grades

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Seeking God

Prayer Pins

The students will preview today's lesson as they make their own prayer list and special reminders.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- 1 large safety pin
- 5 different colored beads

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A.
2. Make a sample Prayer Pin to show the students.

Instructions

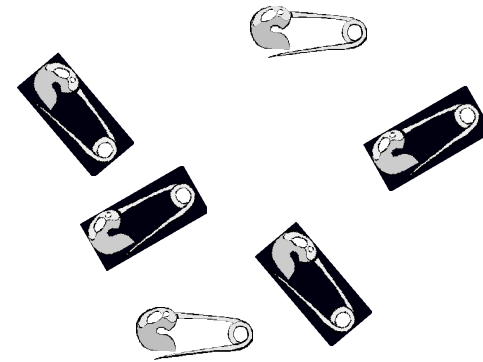
1. Greet students as they arrive. Tell them that today's lesson will help them to learn what it means to seek God.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A and pencils. Tell the students to find a partner to complete this activity. Tell them that they can write in as many things as they want to pray about in the different categories. Using the large writing surface, write any names or words that they have difficulty spelling.
3. Distribute the pins and the beads. Give each student five different colored beads. Tell them to choose one bead for each different category of prayer: family, friends, future, fears and forgiveness. Then have them place the beads on their pins.
4. Circulate among the students to offer help and assistance with the pins. Encourage the students to wear their pins or put them in a place where they will see them and remember to pray for each of the different categories. Have the students fold up their papers and put them in a safe place.
5. Encourage the students that they will be learning more about prayer throughout this week's lesson.

Prayer Chain

Suggest that the students add to their prayer pins by making chains. They can choose a different pin for each category, placing on beads for specific needs or people. For example, they could have a pin for "family" with four beads—one for each person in their family; a pin for their friends with three beads—one for each of their closest friends; a pin for their future with two beads—one for becoming a Christian and one for marrying a Christian, etc. Each pin could be color coordinated to help remind them of the category they are praying about.

Teacher Tips

- Help the students to be discreet in the details they write on their papers. These are not for others to know about.



3rd and 4th Grades

Seeking God

True Rewards

The students participate in this Bible Story as they consider the importance and rewards of pleasing God.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 2 award ribbons
- large writing surface

Preparation

1. On the large writing surface, write the word REWARD.
2. Practice presenting this lesson with energy and enthusiasm.

Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 6. Tell the students that this week's Bible Story comes from the New Testament book of Matthew. Explain that this is their last lesson from Jesus' sermon on the mountainside and they will learn what Jesus said about seeking God. Ask the following questions to help prepare the students for today's Bible Story.

- What is important to you?
- Who is important to you?
- In your house, who comes first and why?
- What is the first thing you think about every day?
- Who is the person you want to please most of all?

In your Bible Story today, you will learn that God wants to be the most important thing in your life. He wants to come first and be your first thought in the day. God wants to be the person that you want to please more than anyone else.

Presenting the Bible Story

Tell the students to open their Bibles to Matthew 6:1-8. Ask them to follow along as you read it. Tell them to stand up and count each time they hear you say the word "reward."

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no REWARD from your Father in heaven.

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and

on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their REWARD in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will REWARD you.

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their REWARD in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will REWARD you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."
(Matthew 6:1-8, emphasis added)

- How many times does the word "reward" appear? (five times)
- What is a reward? (What you receive for doing something good; a prize)

Jesus wants us to think about rewards. He wants us to get rewards! But he wants us to get our rewards from God. If you want to get a reward for courage, what would you have to do? (Take responses.) Jesus wants you to see that loving and serving God is the most courageous and worthwhile thing you can do—and God wants to reward you for it!

True or False Rewards

Ask the following true/false questions. Have the first student that raises his hand answer the question.

- If you pray and go to church to make people think you are "a good person," then you have no reward in heaven. (True)
- If you give money to the poor and tell everyone about it to make people think you are a really great person, then your only reward will be what people think about you. (True)
- If you give so that only God knows about it, you will receive a reward from God. (True. Give the student a ribbon and ask



3rd and 4th Grades

Seeking God

what they think a reward from God could be. Forgiveness; Happiness; True Friends; the Bible; etc.)

- If you pray to be seen by men, babbling on and on, to make people think you are really religious, the only reward will be what people think of you. (True)
- If you pray in a special, secret place so that only God can see and hear you, then God has a reward for you. (True. Give the student a ribbon and ask what they think another reward from God could be. Answered prayers for a sick person to get well, a problem to be solved, etc.)

NOTE: Make sure the students understand that Jesus did not say that people should not pray in public or in front of other people. Jesus just wanted people to pray to be seen and heard by God—not by men—no matter where they were.

Tell the students to turn to Matthew 6:25-33 and read it to them. Tell the students to stand up and count each time you read the words “do not worry.” Have the students read verse 33 together with you. Tell the students that God knows exactly what they need and he will take care of those needs, if they will put him first in their lives.

Sharing with Others

Ask the students if they know someone who is always doing things to get other people's attention. Encourage them to share what they learned about God's true rewards with that person. Close with a prayer for the students to seek to please God more than people.

Teacher Tips

- If you have actual rewards or prizes to bring in to class, show them to the students as you discuss the idea of God's heavenly rewards.

TRUE REWARDS

C

R

A

F

T

Seeking God

'Pleasing God' Pinwheel

The students will make pinwheels reminding them of ways that they can please God.

Materials

For each student:

- scissors
- piece of construction paper, 6" x 6"
- pushpin
- unsharpened pencil
- eraser cap
- invisible tape
- crayons
- decorative items such as: glitter, stickers, etc.
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- scissors
- glue stick

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Cut out the pinwheels from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
2. Glue the pinwheels to the construction paper.
3. Fold the pinwheels on the diagonal lines to form two creases. See Figure A.
4. Make a finished pinwheel to show the students.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: In today's Bible Story, you are learning what it means to seek God. You are going to make pinwheels to remind you of ways you can please God. Show the students your model and read to them the words written on the pinwheel.
2. Distribute the pinwheels you prepared, scissors and tape. Have them make four cuts starting at the four corners of the pinwheel. See Figure B. Make sure they cut only the solid lines and stop before they get to the dotted lines.

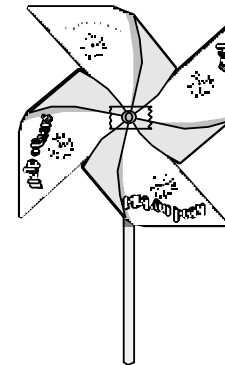
3. Have each student fold in one side of each corner, indicated by the arrow, to the center of the pinwheel. See Figure C.
4. Have them place tape over the center of the pinwheel to hold the folded sides in place.
5. Give the students the crayons, glue sticks and decorative items. Have them decorate their pinwheels.
6. Give each student a pencil and an eraser cap. Have them put the eraser caps on the eraser end of the pencils.
7. Insert a pushpin through the tape at the pinwheel's center and onto the eraser cap. See Figure D

Conclusion

Discuss with the students how we can please or displease God. Ask each students to name one way that they can please God. Close with a prayer to help the students focus on pleasing God this week.

Teacher Tips

- Pair off the students to help each other during the folding and taping of the pinwheels. Have one student hold the points down while the other folds, and then tapes.
- It helps when folding and taping the sides to aim slightly over the center point of the pinwheels.



3rd and 4th Grades

Seeking God

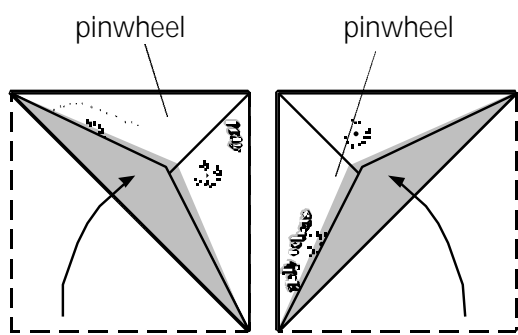


Figure A

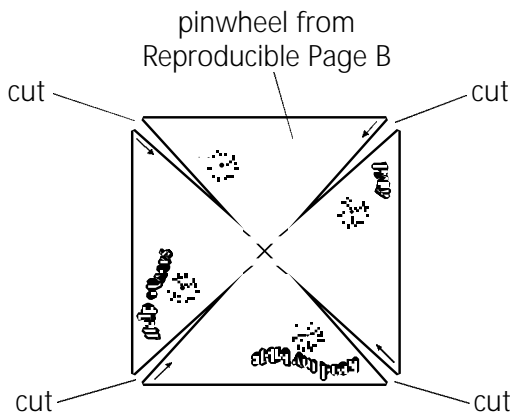


Figure B

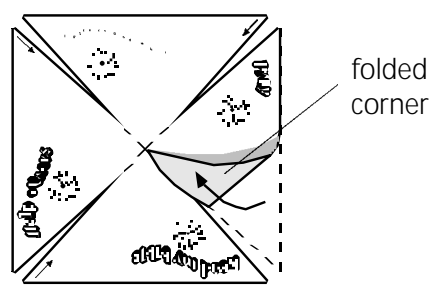


Figure C

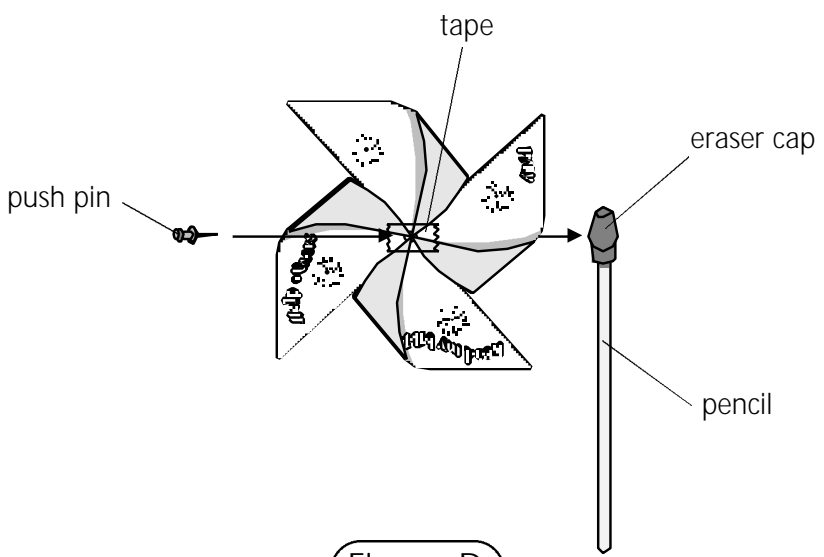


Figure D

SCRIPTURE
MEMORY

Seeking God

All These Things

The students will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse through this relay activity.

Scripture Memory Verse

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 piece of poster board, 22" x 28"
- 20 index cards, 3" x 5"
- marker

Preparation

1. Write on each index card, one word from the Scripture Memory Verse and the reference.
2. Horizontally on both sides of the poster board, trace twenty index cards, making five columns and four rows of boxes.
3. On one side of the poster board, fill the words of today's Scripture Memory Verse and reference in the spaces.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: In this week's lesson, you are learning what it means to seek God. In Jesus' sermon on the mountain - side, Jesus told the people that it was more important to please God than to please men. Jesus told the people that they should not do things for other people to see, but for God to see. Jesus told people to pray in a secret place where only God would see them. He told them to give to others in such a way that others would not even know about it. Jesus wanted the people to care more about doing things for God than for the attention of other people. In today's Scripture Memory Verse, you will hear what Jesus told the people about seeking God.

2. Show the students the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to them three times as they follow along. Ask them to say it together with you three more times. Ask the girls to say it with you. Ask the boys to say it with you. Ask the third graders to say it with you. Ask the fourth graders to say it with you. Ask for volunteers to say it from memory.
3. Show the students the poster board and index cards you prepared. Tell them that they will play a relay-style game to help them learn the verse. Line up the students and seat them in chairs or on the floor. Place the poster board approximately four feet away from them, with the "word" side facing them.
4. Shuffle and distribute the index cards so that each student gets at least one card. Tell the students that they will take turns going up to the poster board and placing their word(s) on their matching word(s). The object is to do this as quickly as possible.
5. When they have finished, collect the cards and shuffle them and distribute them again. Have the students repeat the activity, this time trying to do it faster. Repeat this one more time.
6. Now turn the poster board over with the blank boxes facing towards the students. Tell them that they will now go up to the poster board and place the cards where they belong from memory. Tell the students that they may move cards on the poster board if they think they have been placed there in error.
7. Repeat this activity two more times.

Conclusion

Ask the students to say what is most important to them. Tell them that this verse tells us that God wants to be the most important person in our lives. To seek God first means to make God and being like God (righteousness) the most important things—or the things that come first—in our lives. Close with a prayer for the students to want to please God.

Teacher Tips

- Know your students. If they are not uncomfortable being timed, bring in a watch or a timer with a second hand to keep track of their times after each round.



3rd and 4th Grades

Seeking God

“But seek first his kingdom
and his righteousness,
and all these things will be
given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:33



3rd and 4th Grades

Lesson Objectives

- The students will state that pleasing God is more important than pleasing people.
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- The students will plan a special time with God this week.

Lesson Text

Matthew 6:1-15, 25-33

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"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: The Secret of Giving

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: First Things First

Game: Pass It On

Bible Skills: My Secret Place

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

The Secret of Giving

The students will review this week's Bible Story as they consider ways to give that will please God.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 small brown bag or gift bag
- tissue paper
- ribbon
- pencils
- crayons and markers

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- scissors
- bags of assorted candy, novelty items, stickers, etc.

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Make a sample gift.
2. Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page C.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Remind them that they are learning about ways to seek God. Tell them that today they will learn about ways to please God by giving.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page C and pencils. Tell the students to complete the worksheet with a partner.
3. Circulate among the students to distribute the bags, tissue paper, crayons, ribbon and assorted novelty items. Tell the students that they are going to prepare a special gift for someone and have it

delivered anonymously. They may choose someone who is sick or sad.

4. If a student prepares a gift for another student in the class, arrange to have it given to the student at the end of class. Ask the students how it makes them feel to give a special gift to someone "in secret"? Encourage them that it makes God happy and he will bless them.

Teacher Tips

- Make sure that each student's gift is successfully delivered.
- Set aside some candy to give to the students. Make sure to obtain parental permission in advance.



3rd and 4th Grades

First Things First

The students will review this week's Bible Story as they think of ways that they can seek God.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

Special Note to the Teacher

Today's activity will require additional preparation. Talk with your CML to assist you in making the necessary arrangements for this activity.

Preparation

1. Talk to your ministry leader and children's ministry leader about a project that the students could do to help the needy. This may be for disciples in need, sick children, elderly, etc. See if there are any HOPE worldwide projects that would be appropriate for students this age.
2. Work together with your CML to obtain the appropriate permission slips for this activity to give to the parents.
3. Read Matthew 6:1-15, 25-33 to review this week's Bible Story.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 6:1-4. Read it to the students. Ask the students what they remember from this week's Bible Story about this passage. Ask them what they think God's rewards from heaven might be. (forgiveness, true friends, true happiness, the Bible, the church, prayer, etc.)

Life Application

Explain to the students that they will be planning and participating in an activity where they will be giving to the needy. Tell them that the goal is to have fun working together, but more importantly, to please God by giving to people in need. Briefly share from your own life about an experience you have had with volunteer work with HOPE worldwide or another organization.

Present the project location and details that you have arranged. Tell the students to make a list of ways that they can give to the people you have told them about.

Divide the students into "work teams." Assign each group to a specific aspect of the project. Work with your assistants to help the students think specifically of what they will need to bring for supplies; what they should wear; and any food they will need for themselves. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D and pencils for students to write any reminders.

Work with the parents and project coordinator to set the date and times. Ask parents to help arrange for transportation on the day of the project.

Conclusion

Ask the students how it makes them feel to know that they will be doing something that pleases God. Close with a prayer for the students to really think about ways to please God this week.

Teacher Tips

- The key to this activity is preparation. Come to class with as many details arranged as possible so that the students can know what to expect and plan accordingly.
- Do not attempt to organize this activity alone. Invite the teachers, assistants, and parents of students in your class to participate in this activity.



3rd and 4th Grades



Pass It On

The students will review key ideas from this week's story in this game of quiet words.

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- regular envelope
- score pad and pen

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for the teacher



Preparation

1. Cut out the words from your copy of Reproducible Page E. Put them in order and place them in the envelope.
2. Practice leading this activity.



Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: In this week's lesson, you are learning what it means to seek God. Jesus told the people that it was more important to please God than to please men. Jesus told the people that they should not do things for other people to see, but for God to see. Jesus told people to pray in a secret place where only God would see them. He told them to give to others in such a way that others would not even know about it. Jesus wanted the people to care more about getting God's attention than the attention of other people.
2. Seat the students in a circle around you. Tell them that today's game is played like "operator." They will each take turns whispering a phrase from Jesus' prayer in Matthew 6 to each other as they pass it around the circle. For every word they say correctly at the end of one pass, they will receive one point. The goal is to be the group, at the end of the class, who has earned the most points.



3. Take paper #1 out of the envelope. Whisper it to the student to your right. Then have that student whisper it to the student next to him and so on until it comes back to you. Tell the last student to say the words aloud. If the words he says are the same as the words you started, then the group receives the same number of points. For example, if the words "Give us today" passed around correctly, the team earns three points.
4. Choose a student to begin the next round. Take paper #2 out and give it to him. Answer any questions and be sure the student understands what it written. Have him return to his seat and pass it on to the student on his right and so on.
5. Continue until all the students have had a chance to pass on a word, being careful to pass out the papers in their correct order.

Conclusion

Remind the students that Jesus taught the people how to pray to God because God loves it when we pray to him. Ask the students how long they talk on the phone every day. Then ask them how long they pray. Based on the amount of time they spend in prayer, ask the students who they think is more important in their life—friends or God? Close with a prayer for the students to want to please God most of all.

NOTE: At the end of class, compare each group's points and announce the winner.

Teacher Tips

- For groups of ten or more students, divide them into two groups and make an extra set of words. Have an assistant work with the second group.
- The version of the Lord's Prayer used in this activity is taken from the New International Reader's Version of the Bible.

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*Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored.
May your kingdom come.
May what you want to happen be done on earth as
it is done in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven
those who sin against us.
Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted.
Save us from the evil one.
Matthew 6:9-13 (NIRV)*



3rd and 4th Grades

B i b l e S k i l s

My Secret Place

The students will identify a special place to pray as they think of ways to make their time with God special.

Materials

For the teacher:

- blanket
- stuffed animal
- quiet time journal
- Bible concordance
- Bible study guides for school-age students
- tote bag
- notes from friends or family
- pictures of friends or family

Preparation

Assemble items to bring into class to help the students imagine ways that they can create a special place to go and be with God to pray.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: In this week's lesson, you are learning what it means to seek God. Jesus told the people that it was more important to please God than to please men. Jesus told the people that they should not do things for other people to see, but for God to see. Jesus told people to pray in a secret place where only God would see them. Then, Jesus told them that they would receive a true reward. Jesus wanted the people to care more about getting God's attention than the attention of other people.
2. Find a quiet corner where the students can sit on the blanket. Set out the items that you brought to show the students. Ask the students if they have a favorite place in their house where they like to go to be alone.
3. Ask the students to open their Bibles to Matthew 6:5-8. Read the passage to them as they follow. Ask them what they think Jesus is trying to teach the people. Explain that God does not want people to pray so that other men will notice them. God wants people to pray to him, in a quiet, secret place, where only God can see.

NOTE: Make sure that the students understand that Jesus was not telling people that they should not pray in public. Jesus often prayed in public and so did his disciples. It is very important that we pray with our family and our friends in church. Jesus just wants us to remember why we are praying—for God to hear, not just for people's attention.

4. Show the students your quiet time journal and talk about when and where you have your quiet times. Share about the different kinds of studies you have done and prayer lists you have made. Bring out study guides to show the students.
5. Remind the students of the Prayer Pins they made during their previous (Core) Preclass to remind them of people to pray about.
6. Ask each student the following question: Brian, do you want to have special times with God? What is one way you will make a special time with God this week?

Conclusion

Encourage the students for their ideas and creativity. Suggest that they talk to their parents about their ideas first. (This would be better than their parents finding their child hiding in a closet praying.) Encourage the students to call each other during the week to share how they are doing in their special times with God. Close with a prayer thanking God for all the special ways he loves and cares for us.

Teacher Tips

- You may want to write a note to the parents summarizing the ideas from this activity, or talk to them at the end of class. Encourage the parents to follow-up with this lesson by helping their child make a Quiet Time plan.
- Additional books to bring in that are available from DPI: The Heart of a Champion for Kids, Follow Me, Servant King, The Praise Bible, and One Minute Devotions.



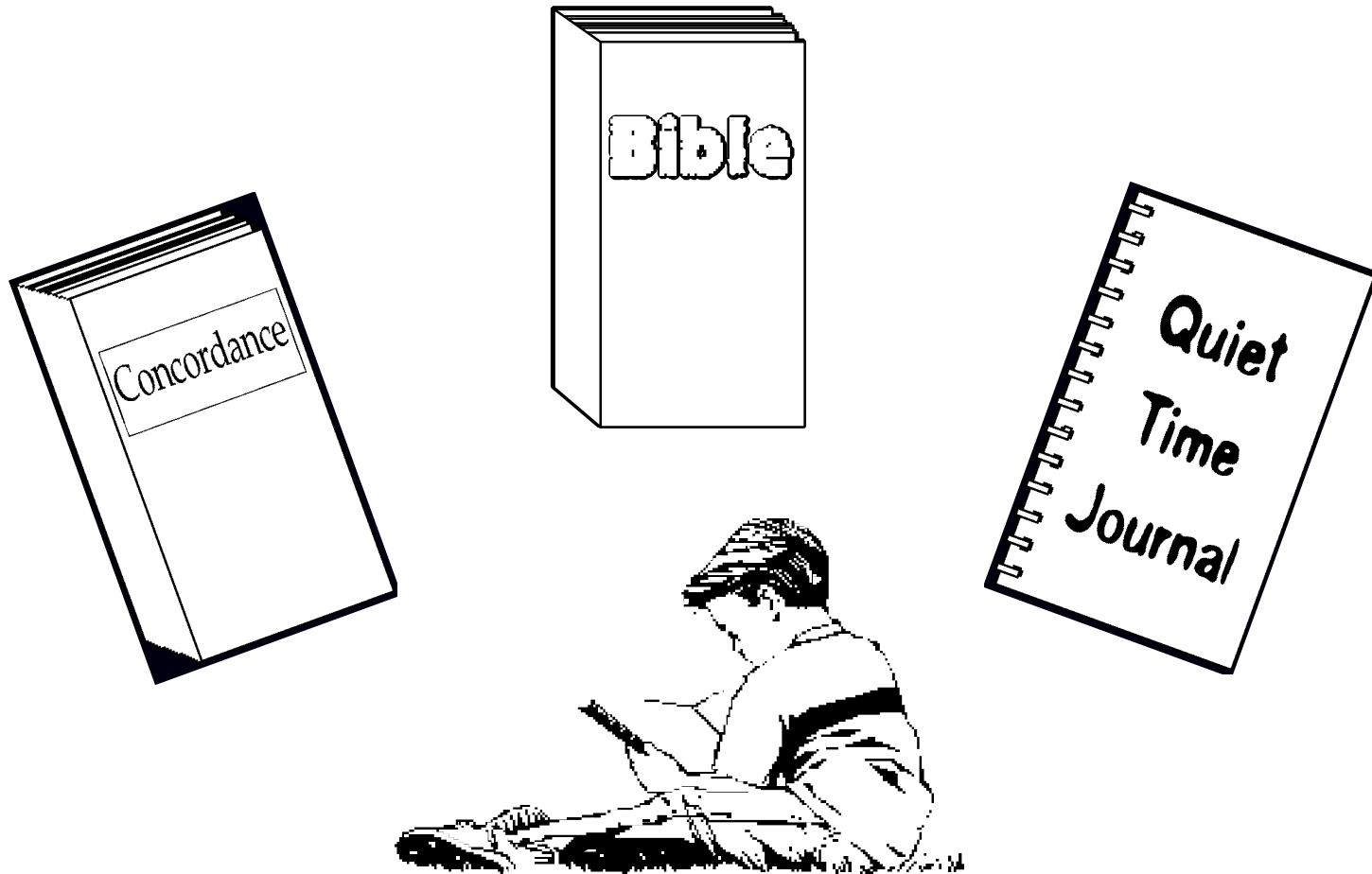
3rd and 4th Grades

supplement

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Seeking God Sermon on the Mount
Lesson 3




Prayer Pins


Name: _____

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
Matthew 6:33


Instructions: In the spaces provided, write a list of people or things that you want to pray to God about.

 **Family**

 **Friends**

 **Future**

 **Fears**

 **Forgiveness**



3rd and 4th Grades

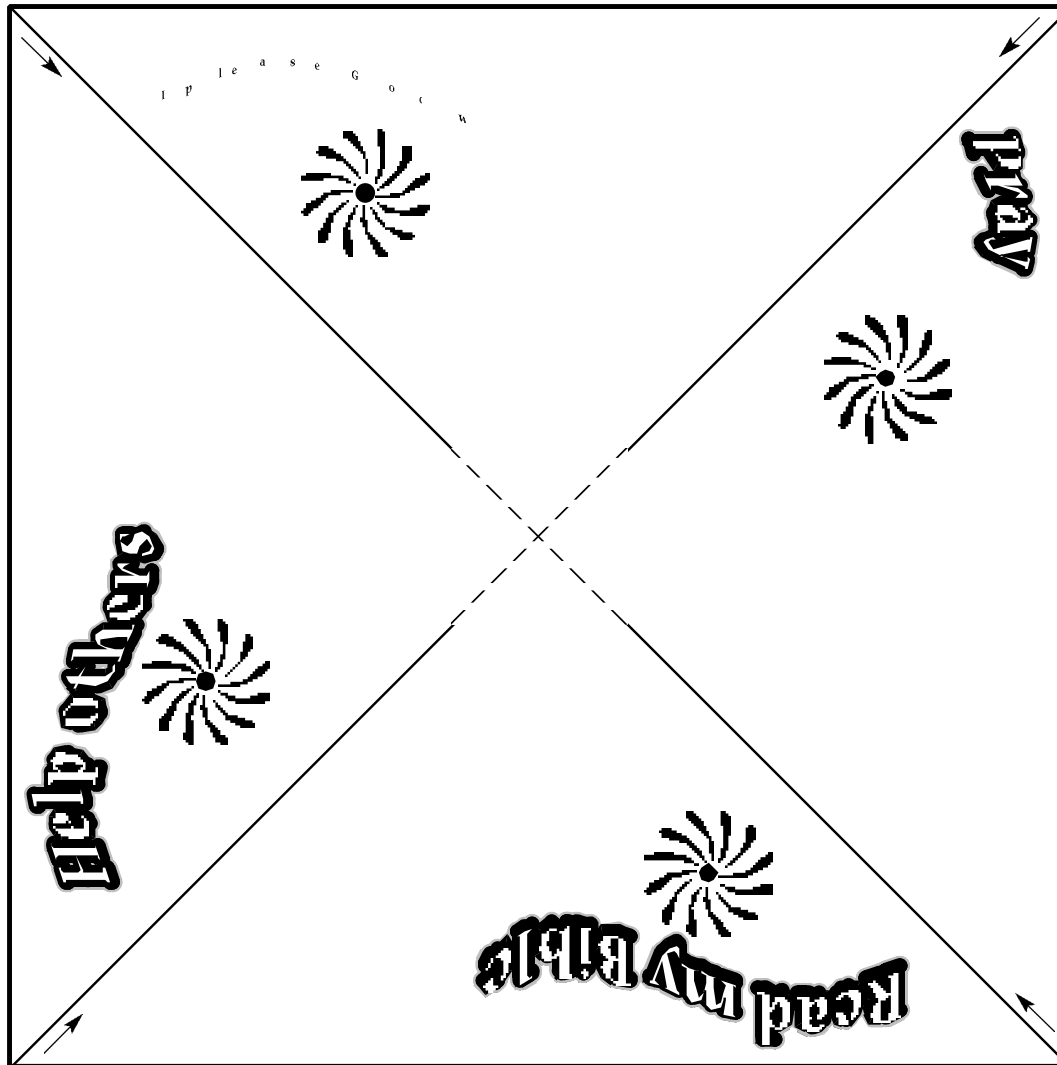
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B

Core/Craft
1 copy for each student

Sermon on the Mount
Lesson 3



pinwheel



3rd and 4th Grades

Supplement/Preclass

1 copy for each student

Name _____

The Secret of Giving

Open your Bible to Matthew 6:1-4.

Find the missing words from the box below and fill them in the passage.
The first one has been done for you.

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no _____ from your Father in _____.

"So when you _____ to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be _____ by men. I tell you the _____, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the _____, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in _____. Then your Father, who _____ what is done in secret, will reward you."

Matthew 6:1-4

sees	honored	heaven
careful	give	reward
truth	needy	secret



3rd and 4th Grades

Supplement/Life Application

1 copy for each student

First Things First

Special Project Reminder

Name _____

Our class will be doing a special project to help people in need. Here are some things I need to remember:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Things I need to bring:

Food: _____

Clothes: _____

Supplies: _____

Other things to remember:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:33



3rd and 4th Grades

1	Our Father	10	our daily bread.
2	in heaven,	11	Forgive us our sins,
3	may your name	12	just as we also have forgiven
4	be honored.	13	those who sin against us.
5	May your kingdom come.	14	Keep us from falling into sin
6	May what you want to happen	15	when we are tempted.
7	be done on earth	16	Save us from the evil one.
8	as it is done in heaven.	17	Matthew 6: 9-13 (NIRV)
9	Give us today		



3rd and 4th Grades