

Unit 3: Praise Makers

Faith Focus: We worship God together in different ways.

Let every living thing praise the LORD! (Psalm 150:6)

GROW IN FAITH

We Worship God with Our Prayers—Acts 12:1-17

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we are told to “pray continually.” In Philippians 4:6, we are told to “bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers.” In Ephesians 6:18 we are told to “offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time.” The message seems clear; we are to pray! Peter’s friends in the early church took these teachings seriously. Peter was in prison, and what could his fellow Christians do? They knew to pray. Prayer can take many forms, and it is likely Peter’s friends did not know specifically what they should pray. They simply knew they wanted safety for their friend. Then, when Peter arrived at the door, he still had a hard time convincing the others he was indeed there. Even though they were praying for Peter, this was not what they had expected.

Prayer is one of many ways to connect to God, and our prayers can be extended to those around us. We might not always know the right words to say or how God will answer our prayers, but prayer is an important way to honor and praise God. Prayer just might lead to the unexpected.

- Explore types of prayer.
- Discuss the importance of Peter and his ministry.

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—We Worship God Together in Different Ways

Peter’s Praying Friends (Maze and Prayer)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 7–12
Leader Guide • Winter 2024–25

FUN WITH FAITH

Human Knot (Game)

When I Feel . . . (Prayer)

Escape Relay (Game)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Community

SUPPLIES

pencils

CEB kids’ Bible or Bible storybook

TV and DVD player or streaming device

sticky notes

crayons

Two pairs of large pants

Two large shirts

Two robes

Two pairs of large shoes

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the “Winter Sticker Page” (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the praying hands sticker on the Session 10 space.

SAY: There are lots of ways to share our praise and worship God. We can sing and dance. We can give money and time to God's people. We can share God's love with others. Today we will learn about another way to worship. When we pray, we worship God.

Faith Focus—We Worship God Together in Different Ways

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20).

- Show children the Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is “We worship God together in different ways.”

ASK: What do you know about worship? Where do you worship? How do you worship?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

SAY: We praise and worship God because we are grateful for everything God gives us. When we worship together, we experience God's joy. We can worship in lots of different ways.

Peter's Praying Friends

Supplies: Activity Sheets, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Tear out “Peter's Praying Friends” (Session 10 Activity Sheet) for each child.

- Have the children finish the maze on “Peter's Praying Friends.”
- On the back of the sheet, have the children fill in the blanks for “Prayers of the People.”

SAY: Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. After Jesus' resurrection, Peter preached to people about God's love and saving grace. Not everyone wanted to hear Peter's story, and he ended up in jail. But that did not stop Peter. He kept praying and sharing God's love.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read about Peter in prison (Acts 12:1-17) from a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: What do you think Peter was feeling in this story?

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 10 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, in small groups, or all together.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: God listened to the prayers of the church. When we pray together, we know that God hears our prayers. Sometimes it might feel like God does not hear us. But we know that God keeps God's promises and that God sends helpers even when times are hard.

ASK: What are some ways you have seen people pray, and how?

SAY: We can praise God for all the ways that God takes care of us, even when things are hard.

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

ASK: What do you see on our poster?

- Invite each child to write or draw on the note a time of day when she or he likes to pray.
- Encourage the children to share and to stick their notes in the Prayers section of the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

Human Knot

SAY: Praying together as a group helps us solve problems. Today, we are going to work together to solve a problem. A human knot!

- Have the children stand in a circle.
- Have each child reach out and take the hands of two different people. These people cannot be beside him or her.
- Have the children work together to try to untangle the knot they've made without letting go of each other's hands.

ASK: What was hard about this activity? What was most helpful while you tried to solve the problem? How is this activity like praying together and for one another?

SAY: When we communicate our needs and we talk about our problems, other people can help us. When we pray, God helps us with our problems.

When I Feel...

Supplies: CEB kids' Bibles, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Make copies of the reproducible "When I Feel..." (Leader Guide—p. 70).

SAY: Let's spend some time thinking about how to pray when we have different feelings.

- Give the children time to consider the emotions mentioned on "When I Feel..." and different ways to pray.
- Let them write or draw about how they pray when they experience each emotion on the page in the space provided.

Escape Relay

Supplies: two pairs of large pants, two large shirts, two robes, two pairs of large shoes

SAY: Peter awoke to an angel telling him to get dressed. He followed the angel out of prison.

ASK: How do you think Peter was feeling when this happened?

SAY: Let's race to put on our clothes and follow the angels as teams.

- Have the children split into two groups.
- Place a full set of clothing in front of each team.
- Line up each team with half the team on one side of the room and half the team on the other.
- Have the children put the entire outfit on, race to their team on the other side of the room, and give the outfit to the next team member to put on. Continue until all members of one team have completed the task of putting on the clothes and racing to the other side.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Community

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Winter Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21).

Photocopy the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 95–96) for each child.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: We can praise God in lots of different ways. We can praise God when we feel lots of different ways. We can also share our prayers and our burdens together.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- One at a time, invite each child to share one thing he or she wants to pray for this week.

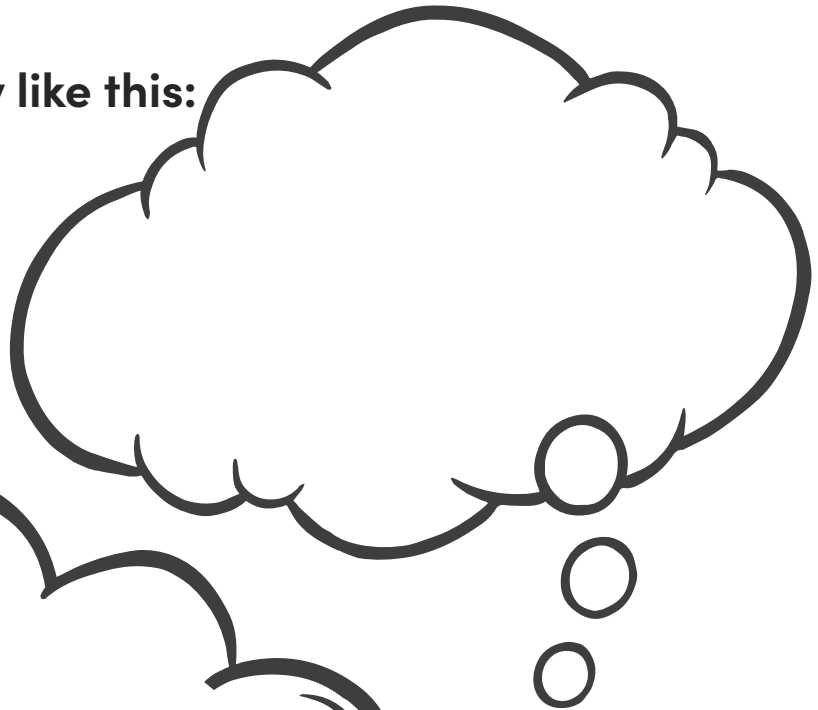
SAY: We can try new ways to pray together. With today's prayer, we are going to try something called a waterfall prayer. We will all pray together.

- Have the children gather in a circle. Invite the children to pray out loud all at the same time. If a child is not sure what to pray, have him or her say, "Lord, hear our prayers." When the group is quiet, finish the prayer by saying "Amen."
- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 10 When I Feel ...

You can pray in different ways depending on how you are feeling. Think about how you will pray when you have different emotions.

When I feel sad, I pray like this:



**When I feel happy,
I pray like this:**



**When I feel scared,
I pray like this:**

