

# Praying for Others

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 18:17-33, 19:1-3, 12-22

**Bible Truth:** I will pray for others.

**Bible Story:** Genesis 18:17-33, 19:1-3, 12-22

**Bible Verse:** “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2, NIV)

## FOCUS

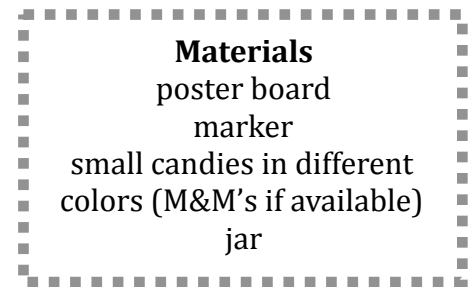
### Learning Activity: “Asking for Mercy”

#### Preparation

On a poster board, write the words “intercede” and “intercessor” with their definitions:

intercede: to speak up for something or someone

intercessor: a person that intercedes for others



Choose a type of candy that comes in different colors, preferably M&M's if they are available. (You can also use any size small item that comes in different colors.) Before starting the class, remove all of the yellow candies except one. Discard the rest of the yellow candy. Put the remaining colors of candy and the one yellow candy into a jar. Be sure the single yellow candy is hidden by the other colors.

Practice the skit with a helper the week before class.

#### Presentation

Begin the ministry time with this skit.

- Teacher: (Calling to someone outside of the room.) **I need someone to bring me my candy!**
- Helper: (Running into the room carrying the candy jar.) Here are the candies you asked me to bring to you.
- Teacher: (Take the jar and observe it carefully.) **I don't see any yellow candy in here. Throw them away.** (Give the jar back to the helper.)

Helper: (Also looks at the jar carefully.) Would you keep the candy if there were at least 50 yellow candies in the jar?

Teacher: **Yes, I would keep them if there were at least 50 yellow candies.**

Helper: And if there were 45 yellow candies, would you keep them if there were only 45 in yellow?

Teacher: **Yes, I think I would keep them if there were at least 45 yellow candies.**

Helper: And if there were 30 yellow candies? Would you throw the jar away if there were 30 yellow?

Teacher: **No, I wouldn't throw away the jar if there were 30 yellow candies.**

Helper: (Carefully examines the contents in the jar.) Perhaps there are only 20 yellow candies. Would you throw the jar away if there are 20 candies in yellow?

Teacher: **No, I would keep them if there were 20.**

Helper: One more question. Would you keep the jar if there were only 10 yellow candies?

Teacher: **If there were 10 yellow candies I wouldn't throw away the candy jar.**

Helper: (Look carefully at the jar, shakes head, sets down the jar, and leaves the classroom.)

Say: **In this skit, my helper was an intercessor for the candy! I wanted to throw out the candy because the yellow ones were missing. He kept trying to get me to save the candy if just a small amount of yellow could be found. If you intercede for something or someone, you are speaking up for them. When you do this, you become an intercessor.** Read the definitions of *intercede* and *intercessor* to the children.

**As Christians, we have a responsibility to intercede for others. How do we speak up for them? We do this through prayer. Intercession is a way to pray for others. When we pray for others, we pray for God to help them.**

**Later on today, I'll let you know what is going to happen to this jar of candy!**

**In today's Bible story, we will meet an intercessor and discover why he was praying. First, let's see what the Bible has to say about intercession.**

## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Galatians 6:2

### Preparation

Write Galatians 6:2 on a poster board.

Fill a jar with rocks. Be sure that the jar feels heavy.

### Explanation

Read Galatians 6:2 to the children. Show children the jar full of rocks.

Ask a small child to hold the jar of rocks and tell everyone how it feels.

The child should respond that the jar is heavy.

Say: **This jar is a heavy burden to be carried around alone. How can we help \_\_\_\_\_** (name the child holding the jar) **carry this burden?** Help children understand that if we all carry one rock, it will be much easier for one person to carry the jar. Give each child a rock from the jar to hold as you continue with the explanation.

Say: **These rocks are a real burden that we can see. However, sometimes our friends and family have problems or burdens that we can't see. What are some of the burdens our friends and family might carry?** (The children should suggest problems that occur at home, at school, with friends, sickness, etc.) **How can we help them with these burdens?** Allow children to respond.

**The best way to help carry other people's burdens is to pray or intercede for them. When we pray for them, we are carrying their problem to Jesus. He knows the best way to help them.**

Collect rocks and return all but one of them to the jar.

### Memorization Activity

Have the children stand in a circle and pass around the one rock that you did not return to the jar.

The first child holding the rock says the first word of the verse and the second child says the second, etc. Each child should say the next word in the Bible verse when they are holding the rock.

Continue until the group can say the Bible verse quickly.

## INSTRUCT

### Bible Story: "Abraham Prays for Lot," Genesis 18:17-33, 19:1-3, 12-22

#### Preparation

Read and study Genesis 18:17-33, 19:1-3, 12-22.

Hold the jar of candy from the FOCUS activity as you tell the story.

**Materials**  
poster board  
markers  
jar  
rocks

**Materials**  
Bible  
candy jar from the  
FOCUS activity

## **Presentation**

Tell the following story, referring to the jar of candy as indicated.

Say: **Abraham's nephew, Lot, lived in a city called Sodom. One day, the Lord told Abraham that the people living in the city of Sodom were doing bad things. Those things were so bad that God decided to destroy the city and everything in it. Abraham loved Lot and wanted to take him out the city of Sodom before it was destroyed.**

**So Abraham asked God, "Would you destroy the bad and good people together? Suppose you find 50 innocent people in the city, would you still destroy it?"**

**What do you think God answered? (Hold up the jar.) Just like I promised not to throw away the candy if there were 50 yellow ones inside of it, God also told Abraham that he wouldn't destroy the city if there were 50 innocent people in it.**

**Then, Abraham asked God, "And if there were only 45 innocent people? Would you destroy the entire city?" What do you think God said? "No, I wouldn't destroy it." One more time, Abraham asked Him, "God, don't be angry at me. Let me ask you one more time. What would you do if there were only 30 innocent people?" And God said, "No, I wouldn't destroy it."**

**But Abraham asked again, "Suppose there were only 20." And God said, "No, I wouldn't destroy it." Finally, Abraham said, "Allow me to speak one more time. What would you do if there were only 10 innocent people in the city of Sodom?"**

**How do you think God answered? He said, "No, I wouldn't destroy it."**

Empty the contents in the jar that has only one yellow candy in the middle of it. Look through the candy until you find the one yellow candy.

**How many innocent people do you think that God found? Allow the children to answer this question, and then show them the yellow candy. God only found one family that wasn't doing bad things. It was Lot's family. Because of Abraham's prayer and intercession, God sent two angels who helped get Lot's family out of Sodom before it was destroyed. God saved Lot's family because Abraham prayed for them.**

**Who was the intercessor in our story?**

**What did he ask God to do?**

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## APPLICATION

### Learning Activity: Writing, "Prayer card reminders"

#### Preparation

Gather materials.

#### Presentation

Say: **How did Abraham help to save Lot's life?** He interceded (prayed) for him. **What should we do for the people we love?** He should intercede for them.

Distribute the pencils, paper, and markers or crayons among the children. Ask them to write the word "PRAY" in big letters at the top of their paper. Say: **God listens to our prayers for others. We all know people who need God's help. We are going to make a prayer card to remind us to intercede for others.**

Show children how to color small circles on their paper. Ask them to write the names of people who need prayer inside the circles. You might consider coloring coding their prayers as follows:

Yellow circles: people who need to accept God's forgiveness

Green circles: people who need healing

Orange circles: people who need help at work or school

Red circles: people who are having a hard time (worry, bullies, divorce, etc.)

#### Materials

paper

pencils

markers or crayons in colors that match the candy in the jar from the FOCUS activity

## MINISTRY TIME

#### Preparation

None

#### Presentation

Make a circle and pray for the people the children wrote inside of the circles on their papers. Ask God to help the children be intercessors.

#### Materials

none