



GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

These additional games and activities can be used throughout the Power of Prayer series. If you want to integrate more movement and interaction in your lessons, check out these options. We've included tips to make the games and activities inclusive for all kids and have designated those intended for each lesson in the series.

GAME 1: TEACH ME YOUR WAYS!

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: music from the [Power of Prayer Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Make It Inclusive

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

Some kids in your group may struggle with social anxiety or simply be really shy around others.

Participate alongside the kids, and if you notice kids by themselves, gently engage them in conversation. Teach them something you know and listen to see if they are ready to open up. If they're not, that's OK. Tell them how glad you are that they are here!

This game works great with the Lord's Prayer lesson!

In this game, kids will teach each other things they know!

Ahead of time, cue music from the [Power of Prayer Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

Gather kids together and explain that when the music plays, they will mingle, or move, throughout the room. As soon as the music stops, they will pair up with someone near them. Kids will teach their partners something they know, and their partners will repeat what they have learned. (Both kids should get a chance to teach and learn something.) It can be a short song, a poem, an interesting fact about space or animals or history, or a fact about themselves, like their birthday or the name of their cat. After pairs have finished teaching and learning, play another round, encouraging kids to find a different partner when the music stops. Play as many rounds as you have time for. Then gather kids and give several a chance to share something they learned from one of their partners.

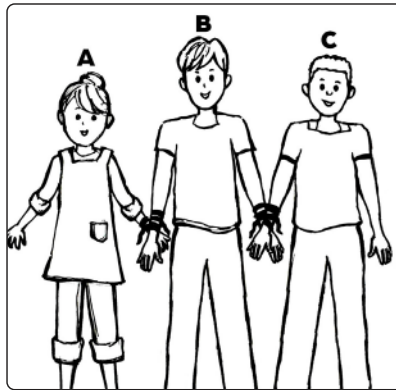
I sure learned a lot just by listening to each of you! We can learn some amazing things when we stop and listen to others. Today in God's big story, Jesus' disciples got to learn something really important directly from Jesus—they learned how to pray. And what Jesus taught them is for us too! Jesus' words show us how we can pray to God as our Father who loves us and hears us. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, and He teaches us too!

GAME 2: THREE-HEADED RACE

SUPPLIES: bandanas (2 per team of 3), stackable cups (5 per team of 3)

This game works great with the Peter in Prison lesson!

In this game, teams race to see who can stack their cups into a pyramid the fastest. The catch is that each kid on the team will have her arms tied to her neighbors'—like Peter chained between two guards. (See diagram.)



Help your kids form teams of three. If the number of kids in your group isn't divisible by three, utilize volunteers or have some kids go multiple times. Give each group five stackable cups and assign them space at a table or on the floor. Help them tie their hands together with bandanas according to the diagram. Explain that "Peter," the kid in the middle, is the only one allowed to speak. Peter will give the "guards," the kids on each side of him, instructions. Guards can only use their free hands and must only do what Peter tells them to. The first group to make a pyramid out of its five cups wins.

Gather kids together. **Was this game harder than you originally thought it would be?** Allow answers. **Probably yes! Today in God's big story, we see that Peter had both of his arms chained between two guards in prison. As we just learned, that was probably pretty uncomfortable. Peter needed help, which is why the church was praying for him. God heard the church's prayers for Peter and freed him from prison. God hears our prayers for others!**

GAME 3: I CONFESS ...

SUPPLIES: pens (1 per kid), scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: "I Confess" Sheet (1 per 4 kids)

This game works great with the Prayer of Confession lesson!

Leader Tip: To add movement to this activity, have kids spread out throughout the room when they write their confessions. On your "go," instruct them to move to you in slow motion, hand you their completed "I Confess" slip, form a circle with the group, and sit down. Then after the group guesses who wrote each confession, its owner can stand up, jog around the circle, and return to her seat.

Make It Inclusive

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

Kids who either cannot write or are pre-writers can share their confession with a volunteer who can write it for them.

In this game, kids will confess to silly and/or surprising things.

Ahead of time, print one copy of the "I Confess" Sheet for every four kids and cut each sheet into fourths along the dotted lines. Give each kid one "I Confess" slip and a pen. Invite them to think of something strange, silly, or surprising that they've done. For example, "I confess ... that I once made mud angels in the rain." Or, "I confess ... that I put ketchup on sandwiches." Encourage kids to stay away from confessions that would make them feel embarrassed or uncomfortable if shared. Kids will write down their "confession" and turn them in to you. You will then read each confession out loud, and the group will have to guess who made each confession. (Quickly glance at each confession before reading it aloud. If one is serious or inappropriate, skip it and move on to the next.) Once kids have guessed, the real owner of the confession can stand up.

When all the confessors have confessed, gather kids.

Wow! Some of you have done some unusual things! But our confessions today were more about being silly than telling God what we've done wrong. There's an old saying that says, "Confession is good for the soul." We see in God's big story today that that is true! We all do wrong things sometimes, but 1 John tells us that when we confess, God eagerly forgives us. When we remember that God loves us, we know we can tell Him anything.

GAME 4: WHO IS THAT?

SUPPLIES: bandanas (at least 1)

In this game, kids will talk in silly voices to disguise their real identity. Choose one kid to be the guesser. (If your group is large, consider choosing several kids to be “guessers” at once. You will need one blindfold for each guesser and a volunteer to guide each guesser.) Gently tie the blindfold over the guesser’s eyes and instruct everyone else to get up and find a spot around the room. Guide the guesser to each kid. When the guesser reaches someone, have that person say, “But God has surely listened. He has heard my prayer,” in a funny voice. The guesser will then try to guess who spoke. Explain that the goal of the kids talking in funny voices is to trick the guesser into thinking they are someone else. If the guesser correctly guesses someone’s identity, pick a new guesser and play again.

After several rounds, gather kids together. **This game made you listen to each other very carefully. You had to listen well to figure out who was speaking! It’s a good thing that God always listens to us. In God’s big story today, we see that we can pray for big things because we know God is listening. Another way to say this is that we can pray with faith. God loves us. We can trust that He hears us too!**

This game works great with the Pray with Faith lesson!

GAME 5: THE IMPOSSIBLE PAPER

SUPPLIES: paper (2 sheets per group plus 2), kid-safe scissors (1 per group)

This game works great with the Power of Prayer lesson!

Leader Tip: Ask kids who have seen this trick to keep what they know to themselves and enjoy watching their friends see it for the first time!

Before kids arrive, follow these steps to create a sample of the Impossible Paper Sculpture:

1. Fold a sheet of paper in half lengthwise.



2. Open the sheet of paper.



3. Cut one side in half, stopping at the crease.



4. Cut the other side of the paper into thirds, stopping each cut at the crease.



5. Re-crease the original fold both ways.



6. With the two-cut side facing you, place your right thumb under the right-side flap. Flip the flap so that your right thumb is now on top of the paper on the far side of the paper. For a video tutorial, watch the Impossible Paper Video Tutorial, which is in the video section of the Wonder Ink lesson resource library.



Now reveal the impossible by flipping the center flap back and forth!



In this activity, groups will be given a sheet of paper and a pair of scissors and instructed to recreate the Impossible Paper Sculpture that you made a sample of ahead of time.

Help kids form small groups, and give each group a sheet of paper and a pair of kid-safe scissors. Show them the Impossible Paper Sculpture and reveal just how impossible it is by gently flipping the middle flap back and forth. Challenge groups to recreate it using any resource in the room. As confusion grows, give hints such as, “I’m so proud of myself for learning how to make this Impossible Paper Sculpture,” and, “What could it mean that you can use any resource in the room?” The point is that kids should come to you for help! You made the sculpture; you clearly know how to help them make it too! (Some kids might realize right away that you can help them know how to recreate the sculpture. If they ask you for help, quietly walk only their group through the instructions.)

After a few minutes, gather kids together. **Some of you figured out that I could help your group! And if you didn’t, that’s OK. I’d like to help you now!**

Give each group a fresh sheet of paper. Then slowly demonstrate each step in creating the Impossible Paper Sculpture, giving groups time to create their own as you go.

You figured out that I could help you because I’ve clearly made the Impossible Paper Sculpture before! And since you could use any resource to help you, you could ask me for help! That’s a picture of prayer. We can trust that prayer is powerful because we know that God made everything, and He listens to our prayers and helps us. Our prayers are powerful because God is powerful!