



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

Gospel-Centered Life: Session 8

Talking with God

Key Statement: God 1) calls us to pray from need and desperation, 2) calls us to persist in prayer, and 3) delights to answer our prayers.

::CONNECT::

Activity 1: Pictionary

- Note: this activity should be done *before* giving the lesson.
- You'll need a whiteboard or a large tablet of paper on an easel for this activity. You're going to play pictionary. A volunteer will come forward; you will give the student a word; they must try to depict the word in pictures so that the other students can guess it.
- Here's the list of words (one volunteer per word)
 - Desperate
 - Sufficient
 - Persistent
 - Fickle
 - Delight
 - Resentment
- If possible, keep the pictures from each word.
- Once all six words have been guessed, ask them which of the words they think most accurately describe the Christian's approach to prayer. Use these words to introduce them to the points of the lesson:
 - God wants us to be desperate in prayer, not relying on our own sufficiency
 - God wants us to be persistent, not fickle and quitting easily
 - God delights to answer our prayers; He doesn't do so with resentment.
- After the lesson, use the pictures they drew to illustrate the proper attitudes toward prayer. We should be as desperate as the X so-and-so drew, or even more so. We should be as persistent as the Y so-and-so drew.
- Note: if you think your group would enjoy it more, you can do charades instead of Pictionary. Do what will be more memorable and more applicable for your students.

Activity 2: Quick Memes

- Before the lesson: if your students have access to the internet, ask them to search for pictures on the web that would best exemplify the following list of words (one pic for each word, and be sure the pics are family-friendly). The more memorable the picture, the better.
 - Desperation

- Sufficiency
 - Persistence
 - Fickleness
 - Delight
 - Resentment
- Have them share their pictures. If you want, you can vote for those they like the best.
- Share the lesson.
- After the lesson, have them go back to their pictures. Have them create captions for the pictures that relate the pictures back to the points in their lesson. For instance, in the desperation picture, they could caption it as “The Proper Approach to Prayer,” or “Our Attitude Before God,” or put words in the mouth of the person/character in the picture that demonstrates a heart of prayer. The Sufficiency picture could be labeled as “Not the Right Approach to God,” or they could put the Pharisee’s prayer as the caption.

::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider spending the majority of your Convey time by focusing on points one and three of the session.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don’t feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide