



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

Gospel-Centered Life: Session 9

Interceding for Others

Key Statement: Pray 1) continually in the Spirit, 2) for other believers, and 3) for the gospel to go forth.

::CONNECT::

Activity 1: Specialized Genies

- Note: Start this activity *before* you give the lesson.
- Give each student a writing utensil and a small sheet of paper (an index card should be plenty big enough).
- Tell them this story: they're sorting through boxes in their parents' or grandparents' attic. They're finding all kinds of stuff and feel like they're on the show American pickers. One of the things they find is an old lamp. When they rub it to read the writing on it, lo and behold, out pops a genie. However, your excitement is tempered as the genie explains the situation: he's a specialized genie, not like the one in Aladdin. As a specialized genie, he can grant you *five* wishes, not three. However, those wishes must be for other people; you don't get to wish anything for yourself. Have them write down those five wishes.
- If they wish, allow them to share one or two of their wishes with the group.
- Go through the lesson.
- After the lesson, have them look at their list from the beginning of the exercise. Are most of those wishes "daily bread" wishes (for physical things, or for things in this life)? Are any of them "spiritual" wishes for people to experience the great joy that is God himself?
- Give them the chance to rewrite their five wishes, if they want to. What would they wish for others? Let them share if they wish to.
- They have just unwittingly created prayer lists for others. Have them take those prayer lists and pray over them now in groups of two or three. They should take these prayer lists and put them in their Bibles or devotionals to use as a way to pray for others regularly this week.
- Note: this activity is not implying that praying to God is like wishing to a genie. It is simply an illustrated activity that moves students from an interesting thought exercise/activity to the reality of praying for others.

Activity 2: The Secret War

- Note: This exercise is best done *before* the lesson.
- Break your students into small groups. Read them the following lines (make it as dramatic as you can):

- For years, a war has been raging. It surrounds us human beings. It goes on every second of our existence, though most of us are totally blind to it. The stakes could not be higher. Good vs. evil has raged around us for millennia in the form of the conflict between...
- That's it. Their job now is to finish the story with a skit. They'll need to decide what the conflict is and who the good guys and the bad guys are. They can be as creative and funny or scary as the kids like. For instance, the war might be between peanut butter and jelly, dogs and cats, ninjas and pirates, werewolves and vampires, Jedi and Sith; whatever they can think of and act out. Remember, it has to be a secret war that most human beings aren't aware of.
 - If you have relatively few kids, you can also have individuals finish the story with some written lines instead of doing skits,
- Give them time to prepare their skits/stories and then let them share.
- When they're done, transition into the first point of the lesson. Just as in their skits there was a secret-but-real war going on, in the Christian life there is a secret-but-real war going on: the spiritual war. In our prayers, we must be aware of that war and so pray in the Spirit. If any of their skits featured human beings plugging into the good side of the war, make connections between their skits and how we are to pray in the Spirit.

::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