

Children's Sermon

God's People Pray

A new feature in this year's planning guide is a children's sermon inviting children to a life in prayer. Consider using this as the children's message...

- in worship
- as an introductory activity to cross-generational activities on prayer
- as an additional "story telling" activity in the midst of the rally day materials
- in chapel for your congregation's school or early childhood center
- or printed out for a family take-home activity

Advance preparation for leaders:

1. Read through the sermon script a few times to be able to deliver the message without relying on the printed page.
2. Mark your Bible so you can show the children where the stories are found.
3. Gather your Bible, a bowl, quick-setting cement, a paint stick for stirring, and perhaps a towel or cloth to catch "misses and drips."

Option: Use a small glass of water if water from the font is not available.

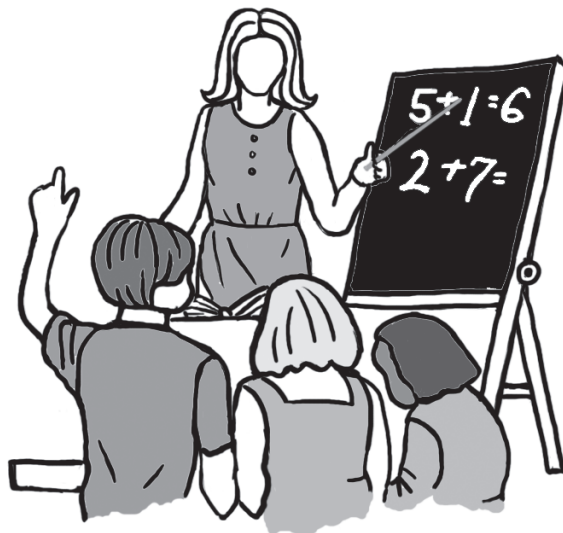
4. Read the directions for the cement and do a small practice block.

The complete Children's Sermon script can be found on page 11.

Closing Prayer

Let's use this prayer to pray (children can touch the block)

Dear God, we go with Jesus to rocky places and a cool river. We hold on to you as you make prayer in us.
Amen



CHILDREN'S SERMON SCRIPT

Welcome to all of you, God's people.

Part of being God's people is saying prayers.

We tell God things and listen for what God is telling us—that's called prayer.

This morning I thought you might like to make a prayer.

There are lots of kinds of prayers, but this is one of my favorites.

We basically need three things to make this particular kind of prayer so I brought some of them.

We need special stories about Jesus, so I brought a Bible.

We need some dirt and rocks, so I brought some pieces of the earth.

We need some water, so we'll have to figure that out in a little while.

And here's a bowl and a stick for mixing.

The first thing we need to do to make prayer is to find a story of Jesus. Jesus teaches us how to pray. Here's a story of Jesus from the Gospel of John. It's a story of Jesus in the desert. I never really thought about how rocky it was where Jesus lived and walked. His feet got really dirty and sore. And life was pretty rocky in this desert story of Jesus. He felt very alone in the desert and he asked God for help with the things that were bothering him. Let's put some rock and earth in the bowl to remind us of this story of Jesus in the dry desert asking God for help.

Now we're going to find another story about Jesus. I have a feeling you remember this one. You can find it in your Bible too, in the Gospel of Matthew. In this story Jesus gets baptized. He goes down into the water and comes up again. And God makes some happy noises. God says, "Jesus belongs to me!" Now we need to put some water in this bowl to remember the story of Jesus' baptism and make prayer. But I didn't bring any water. I wonder where we could get some water. (Scoop some water from the baptismal font.)

Great! Now we have everything we need to make prayer—Jesus stories, rocks from the earth, and water. Let's mix it all up. Look at that. It's changing. It's mixing up into something *new*.

Kind of looks like a block, doesn't it? It's a prayer block, all right. Now it's ready to use.

God can use this kind of prayer to build a road to us. We can use this kind of prayer to remind us of how close God is to us. It's a very handy prayer—and you helped make it!