

God Always Answers Prayer

Lesson 14a — Yes, No, Wait

Lesson 14b — God Answers Joshua and the Blind Man — Yes

Lesson 14c — God Answers Jesus — No

Lesson 14d — God Answers Abraham — Wait

OVERVIEW

Our unit for this month deals with the three different ways God answers our prayers. To open the unit, we suggest you incorporate the visual aid of a traffic light — the three colors representing the possible answers God may give when we pray. This aid can be used on each of the four Sundays. The first lesson gives a broad view of the three examples we will focus on in depth on the three succeeding Sundays.

In the incident recorded in Joshua 10:12-14, Joshua was in the process of obeying God's specific command. God had told Joshua to conquer the land and in Joshua 10:8 he was again commanded to attack fearlessly the enemy and was promised complete success. Joshua knew what God's will was and had set out to accomplish it, so God was willing to do what Joshua asked.

Christ's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me," is reflective of the

profound struggle He was going through. Of course Jesus' will was in total agreement with His Father's will, but His humanity was grappling with the awful agony of the sacrifice He was about to make. Had God quickly responded to the cry of His beloved Son, there would have been no redemption possible for mankind.

Abraham also was a man who knew the voice of God. Genesis 12:1-4 and Genesis 17:1-4,19 are records of the specific promises of God to Abraham that he would have a son by Sarah, his wife. It was Abraham's duty to believe (Genesis 15:6) and wait for God to fulfill it in His own way and time.

Your students should understand that we can expect God to answer our prayers only as we honestly seek, in faith, His will and are asking in obedience to His Word. Psalm 34:17; Proverbs 15:29; James 4:2,3; I John 3:22

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Have a YES, NO, WAIT bean-bag toss (see Patterns). Prepare an equal amount of questions on each of the Yes, No, Wait lessons so each child has the chance to answer at least one of them. Let the students take turns tossing a bean bag into one of the holes. If the bean bag goes into the YES hole, ask the student a question from the YES lesson, etc. If he answers correctly give him a card on which is written the word AMEN (see Patterns). Each student should try for at least one AMEN card. (If your group is too large, divide into several teams. Let a team leader toss the bean bag and then let the team decide together on an answer. Each member of that team receives an AMEN card if their answer is correct.)

Attach several cards to a board, each of which has a

question written on the back side and a large question mark drawn on the front side. Have each child choose a question to answer. A correct answer receives a prize.

With masking tape, mark out a simple game board on the floor of the singing area. Divide the students into four groups and select a representative from each group. The teacher will stand in the center with a small box of circles on which are written YES, NO, or WAIT, with instructions. Example: Yes — take 2 steps; No — go back to Start, or lose a turn; Wait — don't move. Have the players take turns selecting circles from the box which should be deep enough so that the player can't see what is written on the circles. The player who finishes first wins prizes for his group. (This game can also be used by the teacher to ask questions about the lesson instead of using the circles.)

CONTEST IDEAS

Draw, or cut from construction paper, the trunk and branches of a big tree (see Patterns). Assemble them on a board or wall. Attach to the branches various colored leaves (see Patterns) on which you have written a question or parts of the memory verses. Choose a different color for each of the lessons: orange or brown for lesson A; green for lesson B; red for lesson C; yellow for lesson D. Each Sunday have the children take off of the tree a leaf that goes with the lesson for that day. If they can answer the question or complete the memory verse correctly they can sign their name on the leaf and keep it. Then on the last Sunday of the month the students take turns choosing a leaf until all the leaves are off the tree. (Any questions that cannot be answered may be disposed of.) The student who has collected the most leaves receives a prize. Each child should have a place to store his own leaves during the month — a folder, pocket on the wall, or kept by the teacher.

Give each student a legal-sized envelope on which you have glued three circles: red, yellow, green (to represent a traffic light). Also, have enough red, yellow, and green circles cut so each child can earn at least twelve circles during the month (for attendance, memory verse, and bringing Bible). Give out AMEN cards to the children for their missionary efforts. If you choose to, a reward can be given on the last Sunday to the child with the most circles and AMEN cards.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Make a large traffic light for the center of your bulletin board and write the title, GOD ANSWERS PRAYER across the top (see Patterns). On either side of the traffic light, write the words, Sometimes NO; Sometimes YES; Sometimes WAIT.

Cover your board with a brightly colored background paper. Make the word PRAY, in large letters (see Patterns) from white or a very light colored butcher paper and mount it over the background paper. Each week let the students write or draw a prayer request on small sections of the word. Tell them that whenever they have a need they should remember the biggest word on the bulletin board — PRAY!

Make a prayer board with your class (see Patterns). Cut hearts out of red construction paper. Write the name of each child on a heart. Line up the hearts across the bottom of the board. Make three large white clouds out of construction paper, with YES, NO, and WAIT written on them. Line them up just above the hearts. In large letters write GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS PRAYER across the top of the board. Then make four

small white construction paper clouds for each child. Place the small clouds above the hearts, floating up to Heaven. Ask each child to choose something to pray about. Write that prayer on one of the prayer clouds. Each Sunday review the answers to their prayers and get a new subject of prayer for the present week. Give lots of praise and encouragement to the children for taking their needs to the Lord in prayer.

Make a train for your bulletin board (see Patterns). On the engine write the words GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS. On the cars, write the words YES, NO, and WAIT. On the caboose write AMEN!

CHART IDEAS

Make a Word Mobile (see Patterns). Cut the words GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS from heavy construction paper. On the three following weeks, cut the words YES, NO, and WAIT and attach them to strings hanging from the original three words.

Make a copy of the "Answered Prayers" finger-play book for each of your students (see Patterns). Have them cut it out and fold it to make a book. Help them to learn the poem and finger play.

Make a wheel chart for each of your students (see Patterns). Each week let them color the section of the wheel which relates to that Sunday's lesson. On the fourth Sunday, put the two sections together with a paper fastener and use the chart to review the unit.

Make a large YES, NO, and WAIT traffic signal from construction paper (see Patterns). Use green, red, and yellow paper circles for lights, adding these circles on the appropriate Sunday.

On the first Sunday of this unit, give each child a sheet of colored construction paper and a cut-out silhouette of a child praying (see Patterns). Have them glue the silhouette onto the construction paper. Across the top, help them write the words, GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS. On each of the three following weeks, help them cut out and paste across the bottom the words YES, NO, and WAIT.

UNIT SUPPORT MATERIAL

Prayer Is — by Furn L. Kelling, Broadman Press
I Can Pray to God — Happy Day Book, Standard Publishing

Prayer: Learning How to Talk to God — Arch Book, Concordia

What Is Prayer? — by Carolyn Nystrom, Gospel Publishing House