

PRAY.

Luke 4:38-41

Before you read the passage from the Bible together and listen to the worship song, journey through these activities with your children. That way, when you read the passage and listen to the song at the end, your children will understand each phrase more clearly.



ACTIVITY 1

PRAYING HANDS

I lay my hand on a shoulder.

Make handprint pictures with your children with paint or by drawing round their hands. Talk with your children about some of the things Jesus did with his hands... laying hands on children to bless them, healing the sick, he brought people back to life, he did amazing miracles like multiplying food, he washed feet. Encourage them to look carefully at their hands. Chat about the things that we can do with our hands. Explain to your children that Jesus wants us to lay our hands on the sick too and to bless others by praying for them. We can use our hands like Jesus did.

ACTIVITY 2

WATERING PLANTS

I ask your Spirit to come.

Ask your children to help you water the plants in the garden or around your house. Explain that without water, our plants can dry out and start to wilt. Chat with them as they pour water into the soil about how they are bringing life to the plants. Talk about how prayer can be like the water. We can all get tired and feel like we are wilting, but when we get prayer, the Holy Spirit comes and refreshes us. We can ask the Holy Spirit to come when we pray for others and we can ask people to pray for us.

ACTIVITY 3

FOLLOW THE LEADER

I'm watching waiting and listening. Can't wait to see what you've done.

Tell your children that whatever you do, they must copy, e.g. pat your head, clap your hands, pull a funny face, yawn, smile, pretend to cry. Take turns to be the leader. Chat about how we had to watch the leader carefully in this game. When we are praying for someone we need to watch carefully too. We can watch what people are doing when we pray for them. When we ask the Holy Spirit to come, we need to wait and watch carefully as he begins to move. Talk about some of the things we can sometimes see when the Holy Spirit starts to move.

ACTIVITY 4

BUBBLE WRAP PRAYERS

I pray for those who are hurting. I ask your Spirit to move.

Get a long sheet of bubble wrap. Place it on the ground and have a competition to see who can walk along it with the least number of bubbles popping. Talk about how the bubbles pop when the air is released. Chat about how we can sometimes feel under pressure or in pain. God wants us to release our worries to him. He knows just what we need, even before we talk to him.

Ask everyone to name one thing that causes them pressure or worry or pain. You can each take a turn to give your cares to God and then pop a bubble as a sign you are releasing that thing to Him. Give your children a piece of bubble wrap to keep in their room to use when they are praying this week.



NOW FOR THE BIBLE...

Help everyone to find the passage in their Bibles and read these verses to finish off. Pray before one of you reads it out loud. Ask God to speak to you all as you read and listen together. Highlight any word or phrase that jumps out so that you can share with each other what God is showing you personally at the end.

Luke 4:38-41 (NIRV)

³⁸ Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. At that time, Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever. So they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹ He bent over her and commanded the fever to leave, and it left her. She got up right away and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ At sunset, people brought to Jesus all who were sick. He placed his hands on each one and healed them. ⁴¹ Also, demons came out of many people. The demons shouted, "You are the Son of God!" But he commanded them to be quiet. He would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

Ask your family what parts of the passage God is highlighting to them? What jumped out at them? What was the Holy Spirit was teaching them as they read?

NOW LET'S PRAY...

As a family, all share some of the things that you would like prayer for. Pray for each person in turn, asking the Holy Spirit to fall. Teach your children to wait and watch to see what God is doing. Afterwards take a few minutes for each of you to share what you felt God was doing when it was your turn for prayer.

NOW LET'S WORSHIP...

Finish by playing the worship song 'Pray' by Victoria Bush and Nigel Hemming. Perhaps you could find opportunities to play it during the week, like when you are in your car or while you are eating breakfast each morning. Keep a conversation going about people in your life who need prayer. Take some time each night to lay hands on your children and invite the Holy Spirit to come and bless them.

PRAY

Victoria Bush & Nigel Hemming

I lay my hand on a shoulder
I ask your Spirit to come
I'm watching waiting and listening
Can't wait to see what you've done

And I pray every day
As I wait for you
So I pray every day
As I wait for you
To come

I pray for those who are hurting
I ask your Spirit to move
I'm watching waiting and listening
Can't wait to see what you do

You're the maker of the heavens and the earth
You're with me every single day
You know what I need before I even ask
You can take the pain away
There's no need to be afraid
Come and fill me up again

