

Lesson 3: I Will Seek God

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn that Jesus sought God often, alone, and in quiet.
- 2) Understand the benefits of having a personal prayer time to seek God like Jesus did.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher to share at the beginning of each class
- Pieces of paper – one per student
- 2 large sheets of paper taped to wall or easel – one for teacher
- Marker – for teacher
- Jesus is the Way Crack the Code – one per student



Optional:

- I Can Pray! (Happy Day Book) – Purchase online if available – one per class to read
- Pieces of paper – one per student to draw on
- Any Time Any Place Spin Game – print one per student to take home (there are 2 on a page)
- Scissors to cut out spin game – enough to share if cutting out before taking game home
- Paperclip – one per student
- *Small pencil – either give one per student or let them use pencils from home for take home game

Snack:

- Heart-shaped Fruit (like strawberries) a few for each student
- Napkins one per student
- Water/Cup one per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at the picture, name what happened for the lesson we have already studied, and what we learned from that lesson.



Lesson 1: We should stay focused on Jesus. We do so by 1) getting rid of things that stop us from focusing 2) we work in all things with Jesus in mind, and 3) we think of Jesus throughout the day.

Lesson 2: We need to put God first by loving Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

2) Getting to Know You Activity

15-20 minutes

Before Class: Have pieces of paper with pencils for each student. On a large piece of paper taped to the wall (or an easel), write the questions below for the class to see.

What's your name and age?

If you could be an animal, which would you choose to be?

What's your favorite food?

Do you have any pets?

What's something you're good at or you enjoy doing?

As students come in, greet them while handing out one sheet of paper and a pencil to each. Put students in groups of 2-3. Make sure to pair students in a way that each group has someone who can write.

Say: **You are going to interview each other. On the paper here (point to the paper you have written the questions down) you will read the questions and let the other person answer them. One of you will write the answers down on the paper you have each been given.**

After students interview ask:

Isn't it great when we seek to know someone better? We may discover we like the same kind of food, pet, learn something new, etc. When we seek to know someone better, we become closer. Why do you think that is? Let students answer.

When we communicate, show interest in others, and have the chance to spend time alone with them, we draw closer to and strengthen our relationship with that person. It is the same when we seek God!

Today we will discover why it is important to seek God and how seeking God helps us draw closer to Him. We'll learn how Jesus drew near to God by seeking Him through prayer. Stay in your groups and open your Bibles. (Hand out Bibles to those who need one). Put another large sheet of paper on the wall and write the following verses. Have each group look up **one** of the verses and be prepared to read it out loud to the class. Choose which group will look up what verse.

Mark 1:35, Mark 6:46, Luke 5:16, Luke 6:12

Have students on their pieces of paper from the interviews write: **When, Where, and Who**

Then as students read aloud their assigned verse, have the whole class write down the answers to:

When did Jesus pray?

Where did He pray?

Who was with Jesus?

Jesus taught us how to seek God through prayer. What were some ways Jesus taught us how to seek God? By praying alone, for a long time, often, in quiet, with no one else around so it is just God and us, etc.

Jesus wants us to draw closer to our Heavenly Father just like Jesus did. By focusing on Jesus we learn to focus on God.

After students have read the verses out loud to the class say:

Were there specific times that Jesus prayed to God or was it at all times of the day and night? All times.

Where did Jesus pray? In quiet places when He wanted some quiet time with God.

Who was with Jesus when He prayed? Let students answer.

Why do you think Jesus sought God in quiet places all by Himself, rather than with lots of other people around? Let students answer.

Do you think we need to pray to God regularly on our own as well? Let students answer.

Jesus knew that it is easier to focus on God when He could be alone with God having the time and quietness to do so. Jesus teaches us that seeking God alone in quiet places draws us even closer to Him. Just like when we took the time to interview one another.

So what did Jesus teach us about seeking God? We can seek God any time, any place, anywhere.

To focus on God it is wonderful and necessary to spend time with Him alone, in quiet. Taking the time to talk to God. When we spend time with God we gain peace, wisdom, and a better relationship with God.

Let's all now on our own, spend time talking to God in our minds to Him. Let's all pray to God, talking to Him quietly, individually, and alone. God is so wonderful, even though we will be each talking to God in our hearts and minds, He will hear and be with each and every one of us. He can do that because He is God. I encourage you to close your eyes so you can focus on God and not on other things around you.

Allow 3-5 minutes of quiet time for children on their own to pray to God.

3) Jesus is the Way Crack the Code

5-10 minutes

Hand out one set of the activity sheet to each student. Wait to hand out pencils until you have gone through the directions.

Today we are learning about the importance of seeking God. We've also been learning that the way to God is through Jesus His Son and following His example.

Read the directions out loud and then provide a pencil for each student. Help as needed.

When students are done, ask for a volunteer to read the break the code phrase out loud. Then help any student who made a mistake to fix it.

So according to this code, how do we seek God? Through Jesus.

Jesus is the only way to God. So to seek God means to follow and go through Jesus. We read earlier that Jesus sought God. He set the example by praying to God morning, noon, and night. Any time. He prayed to God often, on His own and in quiet places so He could truly spend time with God and spend time together. We need to follow Jesus and do the same!


Where can you pray to God? Home, school, bedroom, outdoors, with the church, etc.

When can you pray to God? Any time.

When should you pray to God? All the time.

We can follow Jesus by seeking God in prayer, any time and place, everyday!

Jesus is the Way - Crack the Code
John 14:6
Use the code below to find out how we can seek God and know Him.



Jesus answered,
" I 13 20 6 5
and the 25 1 25 20 16 21 20 6
and 20 6 5 12 9 6 5
No one comes to the except
6 1 20 8 5 15
20 6 16 15 21 7 6 13 5 "

4) Optional: Read "I Can Pray!"

10 minutes

If available read the book from Happy Day – I Can Pray to the class.



5) Optional: Quiet Time with God Drawing

10 minutes

Hand out one piece of paper to each student with markers, crayons, or pencil crayons.

Say: **When is your favorite time of day that is quiet and peaceful?** Let students answer.

In our busy days it can be tough to find time to be quiet and alone with our thoughts. God wants us to be still and quiet before Him. Just listen to what Psalm 46:10 says about being still as we seek God.

Psalm 46:10a

Be still, and know that I am God.

God knows that to seek Him, we must close out the noises – not just from our ears but our hearts as well. Let's take some quiet time now to be still before God. We'll draw quiet, silent pictures that express our love for God as we seek Him quietly and in stillness.

Write on the easel or large sheet of paper you had at the beginning of class: **"I Will Seek God"**

Ask the students to write that on their paper and then draw a picture or pictures of how much they love God and will seek Him.

Remind students as needed to remain quiet and help come up with ideas to draw if necessary.

Say: **How does seeking God in quiet and solitude help us draw nearer to Him?** We can focus, no distractions, find peace in the quiet time with Him, etc.

There are many ways to seek God. Jesus taught us that one of the best ways is through prayer.

What are some other ways we can seek God? Bible study, Bible class, Sunday worship, etc.

When we love God, we naturally want to spend time with Him. We want to seek God to know him better.

6) Lesson Review

5 minutes

Say: **What did we learn today?** Let students answer.

What are ways we can seek God?

What are some of the benefits of seeking God? Draw closer to Him, build a better relationship with God, find peace in the quiet, learn to be happy with quiet time, etc.

Optional questions to ask:

What did you like best about today's Bible lesson?

What questions do you have about today's lesson?

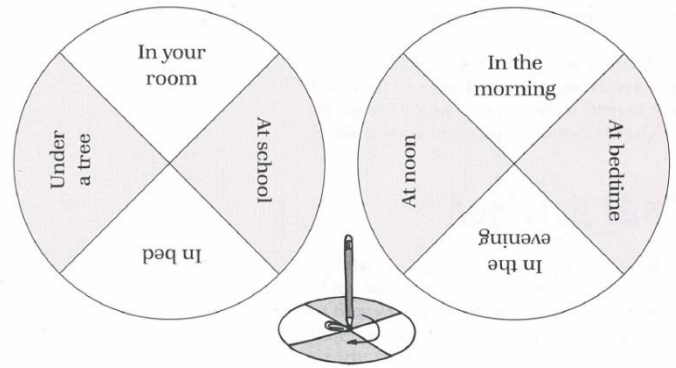
7) Spin the Top Take Home Activity Game

5-10 minutes

Before class: Gather paper clip, scissors and sheets. Cut sheet in half so each student gets one spin game with instructions.

During class: read the instructions and if time allow students to begin cutting out the two circles. Hand out paper clip and pencil so they can practice spinning the paperclip to see where it will land. They will do this twice – once for the location spinner and once for the time spinner.

Remind them to take the sheet home with questions and do the spin game every day picking a different time and place to seek God. Remind them that at the end of the week they are to answer the questions about the spinner game on their own or with help from a parent.



8) I Will Follow Songs

5-10 minutes

If time choose songs that relate to this lesson from the “I Will Follow Songs” sheets.

9) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **John 14:6** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: “*I am the way*” a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point ahead when you say “the way”, point to their Bibles when they say “truth”, etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

10) Optional – Snack: Heart Shaped Fruit

5 minutes

***Before Class:** Prepare fruit pieces in heart shapes. You can cut a strawberry in half from top to bottom to create two heart shape pieces.

Hand out a few pieces to each student, ensuring you check for allergies first. Say, **this snack is to remind us about our lesson today. Raise your hand if you remember what our lesson was about?** We are to love God by seeking God and putting Him first in our lives by spending time with Him. For example through prayer. **As we eat our snack, let’s think of ways we can love God, seek God, and put Him first.** Let students come up with answers.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking. What did they like best about today’s Bible reading? What questions do they have about today’s lesson?

11) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Thank You for Your Son who died so we can live for eternity with You in Heaven. Forgive us when we sin and help us to learn Your words by looking in the Bible. Thank you that we can spend time with You in prayer, getting to know You better and finding peace and joy in the quiet time we spend with You.

Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You, with all our mind, soul, heart and strength. For You are worthy, good, awesome and loving towards us. Give us wisdom Lord so we can serve others and You, even now at our young age. Pray for those who could not be here today, and pray for those here who have special issues in their life. Be with them, guide, comfort, and bless them. Help us to stay focused on Jesus and make the right choices this week. In Jesus' name, amen.