



Jesus Prays for You!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

Jesus prayed for His disciples, and He still prays for everyone who follows Him today. Children learn that they are loved, remembered, and prayed for by Jesus, and included in Jesus' great rescue plan.

Warm Up Activity: Scissors, Paper, Rock...and Prayer!

You will need:

- Just your hands and a friend.

How to Play:

1. Stand facing your partner.
 2. Both players chant together: 'Scissors... Paper... Rock...'
- **Scissors** – two fingers like a V
 - **Paper** – flat hand
 - **Rock** – closed fist

What Beats What:

- Scissors cut Paper
- Paper covers Rock
- Rock crushes Scissors

Volunteers:

- Now and then play 'Prayer' hands closed over whatever the other person plays. **Tell them prayer beats ALL!**
 - Because talking to God is always the strongest choice
 - Prayer brings wisdom, peace, and help

Bible Story: Jesus Prays for His Followers

Bible References: John 17; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25;
Hebrews 9:24

Visuals You Will Need:

1. People praying (parents, Church members)
2. Child
3. Jesus praying in Gethsemane
4. Jesus praying and a picture of a child today
5. Children from around the world

Words:

1. Do you have people praying for you?
Is it your parents?
Grandparents?
Aunts and uncles?
Your Pastor and your Children's Church leaders?
How do you feel knowing people are praying for you?
(Discuss)
2. Knowing someone is praying for you makes you feel loved and valued.
Someone cares about you when you're not even in the room with them.
You know you matter enough for someone to talk to God about you.
It's comforting to know you have a big person and a big God on your side!
So what if I told you that Jesus Himself prays for you, too?
3. Before Jesus went to the Cross, He went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray to His Father.
He lifted His eyes to Heaven and prayed a long and beautiful prayer for His disciples.
Jesus prayed for their protection.
That God would keep them safe.
Jesus prayed that His joy would fill their hearts.
Jesus prayed that they would love one another.
4. Jesus prayed for His disciples, but He also prayed for people who would believe in Him later.
That means He prayed for you.
Before you were born, before you took your first breath,
Jesus already had you in His heart.
Jesus prayed for you because you matter to Him.
He prayed, 'Father, I'm not just praying for My friends who are with Me now.
I'm also praying for everyone who will believe in Me later
(that means YOU!).
I want all of them to be joined together, like one big family, just as You and I are close.
If they stay united in love, the world will see that You sent Me.
And they will know that You love them just as much as You love Me.'

5. Imagine this for a moment.
Jesus – the One who walked on water,
The One who calmed storms with a single word.
The One who defeated death itself – is praying for you!
It's comforting because you realise you're not facing life alone.
It's exciting because if Jesus is praying for you, He has a plan for your life.
It's safe because Jesus' prayers are powerful.
He is asking God to protect you, guide you, and help you grow strong on the inside.
It's hopeful because Jesus is praying for your future, your choices, your friendships, and your faith.
He sees the path before you, and He is cheering you on!
Jesus knows you.
Jesus includes you.
Jesus wants you close.
And Jesus sends you out, just as He did with the disciples, to show His love to the world.

Ministry to the Children:

Jesus didn't just come to rescue grown-ups. He didn't just come for people in Bible times. He came for **you**, right now, in your world, in your life. God made you because He wanted you. He loves you with a love that never runs out. But sin — the wrong things you do — pulls you away from God. It's like a big wall that you can't climb over. Jesus came to rescue you. He lived a perfect life, died on the Cross, and rose again so the wall of sin could be broken forever. And when Jesus prayed for future believers, He was saying:

'Father, I want them to be close to Us. I want them to know Our love. I want them to be part of Our family.'

That includes every child sitting here today. You are not too young. You are not too small. You are not forgotten. Jesus knows your name, your story, your fears, your hopes, and He invites you into His rescue plan. So, believe Jesus is God's Son. You believe He died and rose again for you. Ask Him to forgive your sin. Repent (turn around) and follow Jesus!

Memory Verse: Hebrews 7:25

'Jesus lives forever to pray for those who come to God through Him.'

Hand Clapping Game:

Children clap a repeating pattern while saying the verse in short, punchy chunks. The rhythm locks the words into memory! (E.g. Miss Mary Mack). Ask the children to create the clapping game. Make sure you have the words up on the board or screen to refer to it while they are learning the verse.

Game: Slap and Loop Relay

Setup: Players form pairs or teams and spread out across an open space. Each pair has one Slapper (Player A) and one Looper (Player B).

The Play: Player A holds their hands out in front. Player B gently slaps Player A's hand, then immediately sprints in a full loop around them.

The Relay Twist: As soon as Player B completes the loop, they slap Player A's hand again, then sprint a loop in the opposite direction. Teams race to complete a set number of slaps + loops as fast as possible.

Winning: The first team to finish all required loops and slaps wins.

Craft: Praying Hands Card

You will need:

- Coloured cardboard
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Felt pens
- Decorative items
- Glue sticks
- Wording: Jesus prays for me! (John 17:20-23)

What to do:

- Fold the coloured cardboard in half (portrait)
- Open the cardboard out so children can trace their hands, thumbs either side of the fold
- Cut out the hand prints (keep thumbs connected as the spine of the card)
- Refold
- Add the wording
- Decorate

