

PRAYER

NO WORRIES



Philippians

4:6

[2020]

Cadet/GEMS Theme: **PRAYER NO WORRIES**

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Theme Logo 2020



[Logo]

God clearly tells us in Philippians 4:6 that we should not worry, but instead, with thanksgiving, we should pray. As God's children the logo depicts hands raised to our Heavenly Father in prayer.

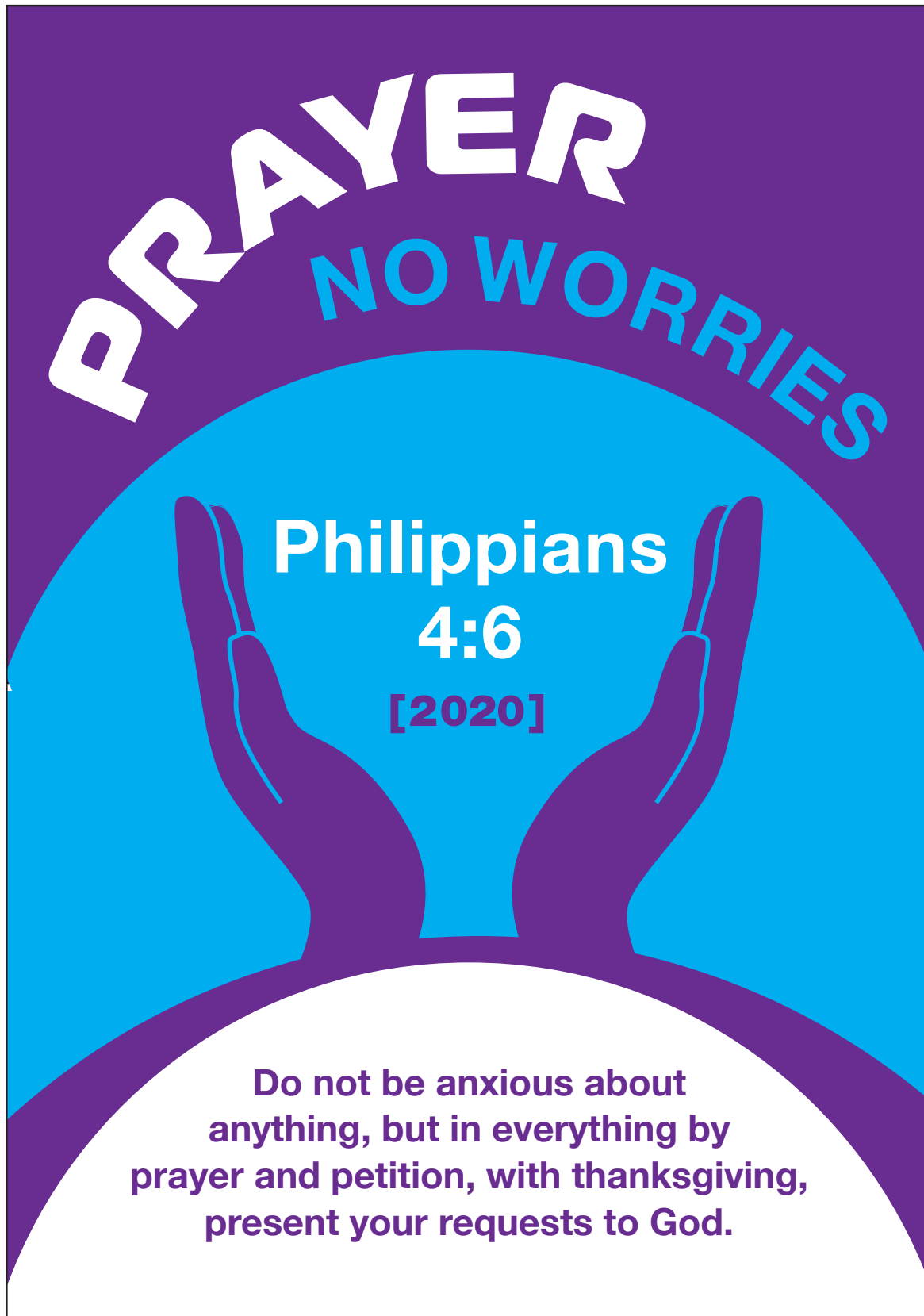
[Colour Specifications]



Purple [PMS 527]



Blue [PMS Process Cyan]



 Purple [PMS 527]

 Blue [PMS Process Cyan]

PRAYER NO WORRIES

Philippians

4:6

[2020]

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Theme Games 2020

[Get-to-Know-You Catch]

Bible verse: Luke 6:32

You will need: one ball and one watch for every 6-8 girls.

Say... Sometimes we only want to get to know our best friends better and we don't care about other people. If that's your attitude, Jesus has a warning for you! He says, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them" (Luke 6:32). This get-to-know-you catch is about getting to know and to love EVERYONE, just like Jesus commands!

1. Divide the girls into teams of 6-8 girls and have them sit in a circle. One counselor (with a watch and a list of questions) is needed per circle group.
2. The counselor asks a question (sample questions below) and tosses the ball to a girl who has 30 seconds or less to answer it.
3. When the question is finished, the girl tosses the ball to someone who has not answered a question. The counselor reads a new question and this girl has 30 seconds or less to answer.
4. Play continues until each girl has answered a question.

Get-to-Know-You Questions

1. What drives you crazy?
2. What was the most recent compliment you received that made your day?
3. Are you more of a rule breaker or a rule keeper? Why?
4. What goal have you recently set for yourself? How are you doing with it?
5. What's one of your hobbies?
6. Do you have a collection? If so, what do you collect and why?
7. What do you take for granted the most?
8. What's a strange habit that you have?
9. What's your idea of a good time?
10. What do you do when you want to relax?
11. What's something that amazes you?
12. How accident-prone are you? Describe a recent incident.

[Trust Him: God's Got Your Back]

Bible verses: Proverbs 3:5-6

You will need: no supplies needed.

Say... Proverbs 3:5-6 says, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.* God is trustworthy. Lean on Him, trust Him, and know that He won't fail you. He's always got your back. Let's think about that as we play this game together.

1. Choose partners for the girls. Without vocalizing it, do your best to put girls together that are about the same height and weight.
2. Instruct the girls to stand back-to-back and lock arms.
3. Keeping their arms locked at all times, they should sit on the ground and extend their legs straight out on the floor and then work to stand back up again.
4. Once partners have succeeded at this, group them into fours, then eight, sixteen, and eventually the entire group.
5. Optional discussion questions:
 - a. Why is it important to be able to trust one another at club?
 - b. Why is it important that we trust God?
 - c. How does prayer show that we trust God?

[Prayers for Our World: Keep it up!]

Bible verse: John 3:16

You will need: an inflatable world globe for every six to eight girls (available at www.orientaltrading.com).

Say... The Bible says, *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16). Through this game we're going to be reminded of the importance of sharing the message of God's love to people around the world.

1. Form teams of 6-8 girls and ask each team to stand in a circle.
2. Give each team an inflated world globe and instruct them to bounce the ball in the air, attempting to keep it from touching the ground. Players should not catch the ball! Players should do their best to make sure everyone has opportunities to hit the ball.
3. Whenever the globe touches the ground, the person who touched it last should pick it up and then look at the country that's under her right hand thumb. She should offer a sentence prayer to God for this country asking God to spread the good news of Jesus to the people who are living in that particular country.

[Guess that Machine]

Bible verses: Philippians 1:4, 6

You will need: no supplies needed.

Say... Machines help us with our work. Copy machines are used to photocopy your tests, washing machines are used to clean your clothes, and computers help us surf the Internet. God is also at work – doing a good work in you! That truth is in Philippians 1:4 and 6, *In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* Think about God's work in you as you create machines that do work for us!

1. Divide the girls into groups of 4-6.
2. Explain that the object of this game is to create a machine out of their group. Examples: a lawn mower, washing machine, car, bulldozer, cash register, etc.
3. Each team should secretly decide what machine they will be. They should assign some people to act out the parts of the machine, others to make the sounds this machine makes, and others to use the machine.
4. Once the girls are ready, they should act and sound out their machine and have the other groups guess what machine they are representing.

[Penny for Your Thoughts]

Bible verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

You will need: a bag of pennies for each girl. Each bag should contain enough pennies for each member in the group. For example if you have 25 girls, you should have 25 bags filled with 25 pennies.

Say... God's desire for all your relationships is that you encourage one another. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.* Praying for one another and gifting positive words to each other are two ways to build each other up. Let's build each other up with encouraging words through this game.

1. Give each girl a bag of pennies.
2. Instruct each girl to approach another girl in the room and trade a penny for her thought. She does this by handing a girl a penny and saying a positive or encouraging word to the person she gifts the penny to. She may say things like, "You are a kind person," or "You have a beautiful smile," or "You teach me a lot about Jesus' love."
3. The person who receives the penny, then gifts her a penny and an encouraging, positive word.
4. Do your best to build up every girl in the room.

[Memory Verse Puzzle]

Bible verse: Psalm 119:11

You will need: a two-foot by two-foot, ¼ inch piece of masonite, thick, permanent markers or paints/paintbrushes.

In preparation: On one side of the masonite write out the theme verse, Philippians 4:6. Using a jigsaw cut around each word to create a jigsaw puzzle game. Optional: Once the puzzle pieces are cut, turn the entire puzzle over and write another verse on the backside of the masonite.

Say... Psalm 119:11 says, *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.* Memorizing portions of the Bible is so important. God uses what we've memorized to remind us of how we should live and to guide our prayers for others. A special jigsaw puzzle has been created for you using our theme verse, Philippians 4:6. Assembling the puzzle is a fun way to hide this verse in your heart.

Note: Always keep memory verse puzzles available to the girls when they first arrive at club. It's a fun activity that can be done independently while they wait for the other girls to arrive.

[Name Game]

Bible verse: Proverbs 22:1

You will need: one roll of toilet paper and one ball for every group of eight girls.

Say... Proverbs 22:1 says, *A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.* Not only is it good to have a reputation of being good, kind, loving, and pure, it's also good to know one another's names. By the end of this game, I guarantee you'll know at least one person's name in this group really well!

1. Divide the girls into groups of eight and ask them to stand in a circle.
2. Give each group a ball.
3. The first player in the group tosses the ball across the circle, calling out the player's name that she tosses it to. If girls don't know one another, introductions may be needed!
4. The player with the ball tosses it to a different player across from her and calls out her name. This continues until everyone has caught and thrown the ball and its back in the hands of the original player.
5. Continue with this same pattern. As the group becomes comfortable with it, add a roll of toilet paper to the tossing sequence, too.

[Find that Picture]

Bible verses: Matthew 7:7-8

You will need: stacks of magazines and newspapers that can be torn up and a bulletin board and pins to post the pictures and letters that you request from the groups.

1. Divide the girls into four groups, sending each group to a different corner of the room.
2. Distribute the magazines and newspaper evenly among the four groups.
3. Stand in the middle of the room and give these instructions:
 - a. I'm going to call out a picture, item, or letter and you're going to work as a group to find that item, tear it out, and have one person in your group run it to me. This is a race between the other groups to get the item to me as quickly as possible. You may not tear out the whole page. Only bring me the item that I request.
 - b. Here are the items you should ask for:
 - i. A question mark that you find in a headline.
 - ii. A letter U that's part of a headline.
 - iii. Eyeglasses that are on someone's face.
 - iv. A letter U that you find in a headline.
 - v. A hand.
 - vi. A door.
 - vii. A letter U that's part of a headline.
 - viii. A group of people.
 - ix. A gift, present, or wrapping paper.
 - x. A magnifying glass, binoculars, or eyeglasses that are not on a person's face.
 - xi. A person's hand.
 - xii. A door.
4. As the pictures are gathered, pin them on a bulletin board.
5. When the game is finished applaud the winning group and ask all the girls to sit down. Let's use the items you found to help us focus on Matthew 7:7-8, two verses about prayer. Read it aloud and point to the pictures that correlate with the verse. *Ask [?] and it will be given to you [U]; seek [eyeglasses on someone's face] and you [U] will find; knock [hand] and the door [door] will be opened to you [U]. For everyone [group of people] who asks receives [gift, present, or wrapping paper]; those who seek [magnifying glass, binoculars, or eyeglasses] find; and to those who knock [hand], the door [door] will be opened (Matthew 7:7-8 TNIV).*
6. Ask the girls to join you in saying it aloud. Those who are not familiar with the verses can join in when you point to the pictures. Do it a number of times allowing more girls to commit it to memory.

[Alphabet Fun]

Bible verses: 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

You will need: lively praise and worship music and the means to play it.

Say... As children of God, we belong to God's family and are sisters in Jesus to one another through our relationship with our Heavenly Father. God's Word calls us family or the body of Christ. In God's book, the Bible, it tells us about this special relationship. *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it* (1 Corinthians 12:27, 26). As we play this fun game that involves using our bodies to form shapes, think about how each one of you is a special part of the body of Jesus.

1. Have the girls choose partners.
2. Within each pair, decide who is going to be in Group 1 and who is going to be in Group 2.
3. Group 1 forms a circle that will move counterclockwise.
4. Group 2 forms a circle outside of Group 1's circle that will move clockwise. The partners stand across from one another in different circles.
5. Start the music and instruct Group 1's circle to move counterclockwise and Group 2's circle to move clockwise.
6. When the music stops, players need to find their original partners and work together to use their bodies to make the letter that you call out. (Both players **must** be used to form the letter.) They may shape it in the air or lay on the floor, whatever works fastest and is easily recognizable by the counselors. The last pair to form the letter that was called out is out of the game.
7. Play continues until only one pair is left.

[Jumping in Unison]

Bible verse: Psalm 133:1

You will need: a long rope for every ten girls.

Say... Psalm 133:1 (TNIV) says, *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!* It makes God smile when His children worship together, learn together, pray together, and play together. Tonight (today) we're going to be unified in our efforts to jump rope together.

1. Divide the girls into groups of ten and give each group a long piece of rope.
2. Begin with one or two people jumping, continue adding people until you work up to all ten girls jumping.
3. Increase the challenge by joining groups of girls until your whole club is jumping in unison using one rope!

[Pattern Pass]

Bible verse: 1 Timothy 4:12

You will need: small supplies from the girls.

Say... Did you know that as God's child you are instructed to set an example for how other people should live? 1 Timothy 4:12 says, *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.* When you think about the words you use, the way you act, and the love that you demonstrate to others, would you rate yourself as setting a poor example or a good example to the people around you? Think about that as we follow one another's examples in this game.

1. Ask each girl to contribute an object to the game – something small that she has in her pocket, jacket, or bag. It could be a ring, a comb, a headband, an ink pen, or her *Sparkle* or *SHINE brightly Magazine* (she should put her name on the magazine – don't want to lose that!).
2. Divide the girls into groups of six to eight.
3. Ask the girls to take their objects and sit on the floor in a circle with their assigned group.
4. Choose one person within each group to begin. The person passes her object to the right in an unusual way. For example: a girl with a headband could balance it on her right pinky and pass it to the next person's right pinky. The girl with a magazine could open and close it five times before passing it to the person on her right.
5. Once a single object has been passed around the circle in a unique way, the person to the immediate right of the last person to start an object must pass her object in an unusual way.
6. Each time a new object has been introduced and experienced by at least three people, start creatively passing another object, always following the pattern that the owner set for passing it.

[Candy Connections]

Bible verse: Philippians 2:3

You will need: a bowl of M&M's®, Skittles®, Jelly Beans, or other candy with multiple colors (at least one candy per person), chalkboard/whiteboard, and chalk/markers.

In preparation: On the chalkboard/whiteboard write the following, but keep it covered up until you're ready to play!

Candy Colors	Tell about . . .
Yellow	Your favorite food
Green	Your favorite place in God's creation
Red	An embarrassing moment
Orange	A little known fact about yourself
Brown	Your favorite hobby
Blue	Your favorite place to travel

Say... Each of us has different things that we like or don't like and different things that we're good at doing and not so good at doing. No matter how different we are from one another, it's important to treat each other the way God tells us to in His book, the Bible. Philippians 2:3 says, *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. But, in humility consider others better than yourselves.* No matter how different we are from one another we should always value or consider others better than ourselves. Let's learn more about one another through this tasty icebreaker.

1. Each person picks a piece of candy out of the bowl, but may not eat it!
2. Unveil the Candy Colors and what the girls need to share about themselves.
3. Ask all the "Yellows" to come to the front of the room and share with the group what their favorite food is. When they've finished sharing, they may eat their candy.
4. Repeat with remaining colors.

Optional: If your group is really large you can break the share time into smaller groups of 10-12.

[Funny Feedback Game]

Bible verse: Psalm 102:17

You will need: sheets of paper, pens, a container to hold the paper, and a stop watch.

In preparation: write the following scenarios on pieces of paper and place them in a container. Write your own scenarios, too! Scenario suggestions: your house is on fire, you win first place for running a marathon, you are surprised by a wedding proposal, you fell off your bike, you broke your arm, your puppy is lost, you spilled paint on the carpet, you can't sleep, you hit a home run, you're fishing and get attacked by a shark, etc.

Say... When we pray, God always responds. Sometimes He says, "Yes," other times, "No", and still other times He says, "Later." Psalm 102:17 reads, *He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.* That's good news for you and me. God hears and responds to our prayers!

We're going to play a funny acting game where you draw a scenario out of the container, act it out, and the rest of the group guesses what scenario you're responding to. For example, they'll need to guess if you're responding to making the winning touchdown in a football game or responding to being chased by a bear in the woods. As you take turns acting and guessing the different scenarios, give thanks to God that we don't have to guess if He'll respond to our prayers. The Bible assures us that He will!

1. Form groups of nine. Play takes place within individual groups.
2. Ask three girls within each group to serve as actresses.
3. The three actresses draw a scenario out of the container, quickly talk among themselves about how they will act this out, and without speaking, act out the scenario. They have two minutes from the time they draw the scenario to when they must stop.
4. After two minutes, the other group members need to guess what event they are responding or reacting to.
5. When the first three actresses are finished, three more girls repeat the above instructions with a new scenario, and then the last three girls in the group repeat the above instructions with a new scenario.

[Sticky Fun]

Bible verse: Deuteronomy 11:18

You will need: masking tape and a stopwatch.

Say... Deuteronomy 11:18 says, *Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.* Although God is not literally asking us to attach Bible verses to our hands and foreheads with masking tape, He is giving the command that we need to know and memorize His Word, the Bible. As you stick masking tape on one another during this game, think about how God wants you to stick Scripture in your mind and heart.

1. Give each girl three strips of masking tape about two to three inches in length.
2. Whether you play this game outside or inside, boundaries need to be established for the play area.
3. When you give the signal, girls have two minutes to place their masking tape strips on other players, while making sure no one else places their masking tape on them. The only allowable places to put masking tape on others are their arms or legs. The goal is to end the two minutes without having masking tape stuck to you!
4. This is an action-packed game, so remind the girls to be careful and gentle with one another.
5. Call time after two minutes. All players with masking tape on them need to sit down and watch round two. All players without masking tape receive three more pieces of tape and play round two.

6. Call round two after one minute of play. Each additional round only play for fifteen seconds. Play until only one person is left.

[If You]

Bible verse: Proverbs 17:17a

You will need: chairs (enough for all the girls except one) placed in a circle facing inward.

Say... GEMS is a place to build friendships – a friendship between you and God, friendships between you and the other girls, and friendships between you and the counselors. Proverbs 17:17 says, *A friend loves at all times. As we have fun together, getting to know one another better than we did before, I pray that you understand how much you are loved by God and the people here.*

1. Ask for a volunteer. Ask the volunteer to stand in the middle of the circle and the rest of the girls to sit in the chairs.
2. Explain that you're going to read a number of statements that begin with "If you..." If that statement describes you, you need to get up and sit in a new chair. If it describes the volunteer in the middle, she needs to do her best to sit in an empty chair, too. Whoever misses the opportunity to grab a new chair needs to stand in the middle.

NOTE: This game concludes whenever you choose and doesn't have any specific winners. Its primary goal is to help girls learn more about one another.

If you have ever got sick at an amusement park...
 If you completed a badge during this GEMS season...
 If you have a pet...
 If you like to sing...
 If you know the name of our Club Coordinator...
 If you love ice cream...
 If you have ever broken a bone...
 If you know Philippians 4:6 by memory...
 If you have ever fallen off a bike...
 If you have ever put your shoes on the wrong feet...
 If you have ever been an angel in a Christmas play...
 If you have ever taken a school picture that you didn't like...
 If you know the theme for this GEMS season...
 If you play a musical instrument...
 If you play on a sports team...
 If you love to draw pictures...
 If you ate pizza in the last week...
 If you ever spent a night sleeping in a tent...
 If you know your middle name...
 If you have ever eaten a peanut butter and jelly sandwich...
 If you have ever procrastinated doing your homework...
 If you are experiencing your first year in GEMS...
 If you have ever slept past noon...

If you have ever had a tooth pulled by a dentist...
If you finished reading a book in the last 24 hours...
If you ever dreamed of being a teacher...

[Zoo-full Praise!]

Bible verses: Psalm 148:7, 10

You will need: no supplies needed.

*Say...*As children of God, we should always be quick to praise Him in our prayers, songs, dance, and play. In Psalm 148 everything in creation is summoned to praise the Lord, even the animals! *Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds* (Psalm 148:7, 10). Think about your favorite creatures as we turn this place into zoo-full praise!

1. Ask the girls to think of an animal, but not tell anyone what animal they chose.
2. Without talking, they should line up in the order of size of the animal. The smallest animal should be on the right, leading up to the largest animal at the far left. For example: a mouse – dog – sheep – lion – buffalo – elephant. Although they may not talk, they may make the gestures and sounds of the animal they are thinking about.
3. Once everyone is lined up, ask the girls to tell what animal they are representing. Rearrange if necessary!

[A Happy Heart]

Bible verses: Proverbs 15:13a, 30b

You will need: no supplies needed.

*Say...*God tells us in His book, the Bible, that *a happy heart makes the face cheerful and good news gives health to the bones* (Proverbs 15:13a, 30b). Did you know that laughter is good for you? Studies show that laughter reduces stress and perks up your immune system! Let's experience together all the good things that laughter brings.

1. Form two teams that line up facing one another.
2. A girl from Team 1 walks in front of Team 2 whose members try to make this person smile or laugh. They are not allowed to touch or talk to her. If they make her laugh she joins Team 2.
3. A girl from Team 2 then walks in front of Team 1 whose members try to make this person smile or laugh. They, too, are not allowed to touch or talk to her. If they make her laugh she joins Team 1.
4. Continue play until each person has had an opportunity to walk in front of the opposing team. The team with the most players wins.

[Autograph Bingo]

Bible verses: Psalm 139:13-14

You will need: a pen or pencil and a Bingo card, found on page 40 or online at www.gemsgc.org, for each girl.

Say... In Psalm 139 we discover how God formed us into wonderful masterpieces. Verses 13 and 14 read, *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.* Each one of you is special. Each one of you is unique. Let's learn some of those unique facts about one another through this game.

2. Give each girl a Bingo card and a pen or pencil.
3. Each person signs her name in the middle space as a "free" space.
4. Instruct girls to find people within their group who fit these descriptions. If a fact fits, ask them to autograph that box. For example: If someone has a June birthday they should sign their name within that box. You may not have duplicate autographs on your card.
5. Just like regular Bingo, once someone obtains five in a row (vertically, horizontally, or diagonally), she should shout out, "Bingo!"
6. Ask the person who shouted out, "Bingo!" to stand in front of the group and introduce the people who signed her sheet. Each person she introduces tells the interesting fact that she autographed.

BINGO

Has a June Birthday	Has three pets	Plays the piano	Has been to Alaska	Likes black olives
Enjoys water skiing	Was Born in another state than where you live today	Has three siblings	Was born on a national holiday	Has been to an island
Is the only child living at home	Has swam in the ocean	Name _____	Speaks more than one language	Enjoys walking in the rain
Made a snowman last winter	Was born on the 6th of the month	Walked to school today	Plays the guitar	Plays on a sports team
Doesn't like pizza	Favourite subject is History	Enjoys painting	Likes blueberries	Rode a bike today

BINGO

Has a June Birthday	Has three pets	Plays the piano	Has been to Alaska	Likes black olives
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Doesn't like pizza	Favourite subject is History	Enjoys painting	Likes blueberries	Rode a bike today

Theme Crafts 2020

[Theme Banner Pattern]

God's Word: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God (Philippians 4:6).*

Devotional

Thought: God tells us over and over again in His

Word that we should pray. Prayer protects us from anxiety and eliminates worry. God wants to hear from you anytime, anywhere, about anything!

You will need:

- 1 yard of white fabric for the background (felt, cotton, moiré or other fabric)
- ½ yard of orange fabric (for outer circle) this can be peach like the girls' legs but it fades into the background
- 1/2 yard of light teal fabric (for the inner circle)
- 1/4 yard of peach (for girl's head arms and legs)
- 1/4 yard of purple fabric (dress)
- 1/8 yard of dark teal (word "prayer")
- 2 yards iron-on adhesive (Wonder Under or Heat'n Bond)
- dowel to hang it on
- scissors
- pattern found in the center of the Theme Resource Book (remember to enlarge the pattern 250%)

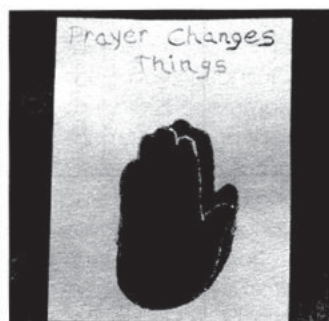
What you do: Please read all instructions before starting.

Prepare the background: Cut the white fabric to measure 36 x 45. Put a small hem on the two long sides and also hem the bottom. Fold back the top edge and make a casing large enough to fit your dowel through. Stitch. The bottom may be trimmed with fringe or other trim.

Create the design:

1. Apply the adhesive to the back of the colored fabric following the manufacturer's directions.
2. Cut pattern pieces from the pattern found in the center of this book after you have enlarged it 250%.
3. Trace patterns to the paper side of the adhesive. Be sure to reverse the pattern pieces when tracing, and to trace the correct pieces on the correct color of fabric. Cut out the pieces.

4. Remove the paper backing from all the banner parts; place them on the background fabric like it is pictured, starting with the orange circle and then the light teal circle. Fuse these in place.
5. Next add the girl's body and dress. Fuse.
6. Now add the teal words and fuse these into place.
7. Now add the words "NO WORRIES". This can be cut from the dark teal fabric, written by hand or printed using the iron-on transfers that are available.
8. After applying all the pieces add the theme verse (Philippians 4:6). This again can be cut from fabric, written by hand or printed on your computer using the iron-on transfers that are available.
9. To finish you banner add the year (2009-2010) to the lower right corner of the banner.



[Praying Hands]

God's Word: *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up (Luke 18:1).*

Devotional

Thought: In God's Book,

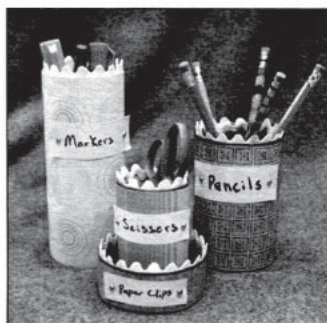
the Bible, Jesus tells a story about a widow who repeatedly went to the judge in her city begging for protection and justice. The judge didn't care about God, people, or justice. Yet, because she kept after him, he finally gave in to her request so that she would quit bothering him all the time. Do you know why Jesus told this story? It's because He wanted His disciples and you and I to always pray. Tonight (today) we're going to make a Praying Hands craft. I hope you'll hang it in your bedroom as a reminder to never quit praying. Prayer changes things!

You will need: a piece of black construction paper and lighter colored construction paper for each girl, scissors, pencils, markers, glue, and glitter. Optional: small alphabet stencils.

Praying Hands Instructions:

1. Ask the girls to take turns tracing their folded hands onto the black construction paper.
2. Cut out the folded hands.
3. Glue the hands onto lighter construction paper.
4. On the lighter construction paper write or trace letters that read, "Prayer Changes Things!"
5. Glue glitter around the outline of the folded hands.
6. Hang in your bedroom as a reminder to always pray.

[Get Organized!]



God's Word: *Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise (Proverbs 6:6)!*

Devotional

Thought: Have you ever been too lazy to make your bed, hang up your clothes, or put your pencils, hair clips, or

jewelry back in their proper place? When we get lazy about giving our best, God tells us to study ants. When we watch them closely, they can be our teachers. Nobody tells them what to do yet they spend all summer storing up food so they'll have enough to eat in the winter. Tonight (today) we're going to make some pretty organizers for your room. Make sure you use them, being "ant-like" in all that God calls you to do – even cleaning your room!

You will need: recycled cans in assorted sizes, pattern or print paper in assorted colors, white construction paper, silver mini brads, rickrack, hole punch, glue, scissors, measuring tape, and black markers.

Get Organized! Instructions:

1. Remove labels from cans. Carefully wash and dry cans.
2. Measure and cut rickrack lengths to cover inside top edge of each can. Glue in place, covering the sharp edge.
3. Measure the length and height of each can. Cut decorative paper into rectangles to those exact measurements.
4. Measure and cut 1/2-inch wide strips from the white paper. Use a black marker to write a supply name on each strip. Examples: pencils, paper clips, coins, and bobby pins. (Have girls decide what they need the most help in organizing in their room or on their desk!) Trim paper strips.
5. Glue paper strip with supply name on center of each print rectangle.
6. Punch a hole on both ends of the paper strips. Insert a silver mini brad in each hole. Bend ends on back. Glue print rectangles around each can.

[Clipboards]



God's Word: *I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, 5because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints (Philemon 4-5).*

Devotional

Thought: In the Bible there are a number of books

like Philippians, Galatians, and Philemon that are letters that were written to different churches and followers of Jesus. Within many of these letters the author reminded people that he was praying for them. The next time you write an email, letter, or postcard, say a prayer for the person that you're writing to and then say, "I remember you in my prayers!" Tonight (today) we're going to make clipboards. You may want to clip your Prayer Log (found in the Theme Resource Packet or online) to it or use its hard surface the next time you write a friend. Always remember the importance of remembering to pray for others!

You will need: a clipboard for each girl, lamination paper, scissors, glue, and decorative items like magazine cutouts, stickers, markers, scrapbook embellishments, etc.

Clipboard Instructions:

1. Distribute a clipboard to each girl and ask her to decorate it in a way that will remind her to pray.
2. Glue the magazine cutouts, stickers, scrapbook embellishments, etc. to the clipboard.
3. Cover the clipboard with lamination paper to preserve the decorations and insure that the girls will be able to use it for a long time.

[God Loves Me Time Capsule]



God's Word: *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,*

neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35, 37-39).

Devotional Thought: God's love for you is amazing, it's forever, and nothing can stand in its way from surrounding your life. Sickness can't stop God's love for you, nor can trouble, bad grades, or a bad attitude. On your good days and your bad days, when your moods rise and fall, God's love remains unchanging and steady. When we're sad and lonely, we may not feel God's love, but you need to trust Him when He says, "It's there. Nothing can separate you from My love." We're going to make pretty time capsules that we can go to again and again when we need the reminder that God is deeply in love with us. If you know someone else who needs that reminder, too, you better make two!

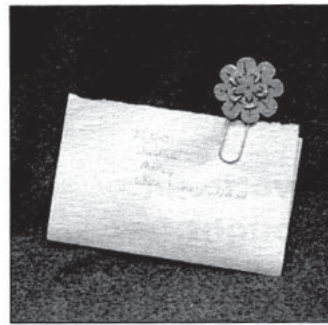
You will need: one recycled Pringles® can (with lid), and four gold paper fasteners per girl, solid-color card stock or construction paper, decorative paper that corresponds to the card stock colors, white copy/multipurpose paper, scissors, markers, pencils, glue, heart stencils, and wrapped candy.

God Loves Me Time Capsule

Instructions:

1. Measure and cut a rectangle out of the decorative paper to cover the outside of the can.
2. Cut a 1 3/4-inch x 6-inch rectangle out of the solid-color card stock or construction paper. On the solid-color rectangle use a marker and write, "Contents: Reminders that God loves me!" Punch holes in the corners of this rectangle. Center the solid-colored rectangle on decorative rectangle. Insert gold paper fasteners in each hole; bend ends. Glue rectangles around can.
3. On white copy/multipurpose paper, trace and cut out hearts.
4. On each heart write a message or a verse. Examples:
 - a. God loves me!
 - b. I love you with a love that last forever (Jeremiah 31:3a)! - God
 - c. I will never let you down, never walk off and leave you (Hebrews 13:5, MSG). - God
 - d. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).
 - e. Long before he laid down earth's foundation, he had me in mind, had settled on me as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love (Ephesians 1:4, MSG).
 - f. Nothing can separate you from My love (Romans 8:39). - God
 - g. God not only loves me, He likes me a lot!
 - h. God loves me just the way I am.
 - i. God loves me more than I can imagine.
 - j. God's love for me never changes.
5. Place hearts and wrapped candy in the capsule. Open it up anytime you're feeling discouraged or unloved.
6. Make another capsule for a friend!

[Flower Clips]



God's Word: *The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever* (Isaiah 40:8).

Devotional

Thought: Grass and flowers are just some of the things that wither, fall, and fade away. Opinions, popularity, and fashions rise, fall, and fade. Not even people live forever. In Isaiah 40:8 God tells us that His Word will never wither or fall. It will endure forever! The promises in God's book, the Bible, are true today and will be true for eternity! There will never be a day when you won't find lasting solutions to your troubles and heartaches in His forever Word. We're going to make flower clips together. Most of them you'll gift away, but I hope you'll use one as a bookmark for your Bible as a reminder that flowers fall, but God's Word won't.

You will need: scissors, jumbo paper clips (3 1/2-inches or more), flower shapes cut from cereal boxes or craft foam, decorative paper, craft glue, sequins, buttons, stickers, and other embellishments.

Flower Clips Instructions:

1. Draw a flower shape onto craft foam or onto decorative paper that has been glued to a cereal box.
2. Cut out the shape.
3. Embellish flowers with sequins, buttons, or stickers.
4. Optional: layer flowers with smaller flowers by repeating steps one and two.
5. Glue each flower on the "non-clipping" end of a paper clip.
6. Use as paper clips or fun bookmarks. Make extras and tuck them into get-well cards, classmate's lockers, or your sister's lunch box.

[Molding Clay]



God's Word: *Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand* (Isaiah 64:8).

Devotional

Thought: Tonight (today) we're going to mold clay into whatever shape

you choose. You may choose to make a small pot, a ladybug, caterpillar, or even a skunk! In the same way that we mold clay,

you and I need to be moldable in the hands of God. When you pray and read your Bible and learn about God at GEMS, God uses those experiences to shape you into an instrument that He can use to serve others. Before we begin molding clay, we're going to listen to the song "Change My Heart, O God." Make it your prayer that your Heavenly Father would mold you and make you to be like Him.

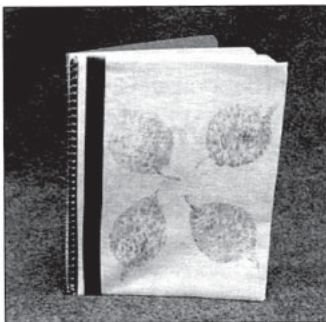
You will need: the song "Change My Heart, O God" and the means to play it, a variety of colors of polymer clay, 22-gauge, permanent-colored copper wire for decorative purposes (this wire is oven-safe and can be cut with scissors), toothpicks and other modeling tools to carve designs into the creations.

Molding Clay Instructions:

1. Encourage the girls to be imaginative. They can make bugs (the copper wire makes great antennas), bunnies, puppies, and other critters, flowers, bowls, letters (form their name or their initials), etc.
2. Follow all precautions on the clay packaging and bake according to package directions.
3. The clay will fuse together during baking. For greatest success, firmly press the pieces together before baking.
4. If part of the creation falls off after it's been baked, use a small piece of unbaked clay to "glue" the pieces back together and then bake again according to package directions.



[Prayer Journals]



God's Word: *One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts (Psalm 145:4).*

Devotional Thought:

The book of Psalms is the largest book in the Bible. Within its 150 chapters are songs, prayers, and thoughts that were recorded by King David and others. The book is a journal of their joys, fears, sorrow, anger, and thankfulness. Tonight (today) we're going to create a journal and it's my prayer that this will be a tool that connects you to God's book, the Bible. When you read your Bible, open up your journal, and on the top of the page write the date and "Dear Father." Then begin reading your Bible and listen to what God is saying to you through His Word and through His Spirit. When you feel God shining a spotlight on a particular verse or thought, write it in your journal and talk to Him on paper about what He's telling you. If you do this every week, your journal will become a priceless treasure because of what you've recorded about God's work in your life.

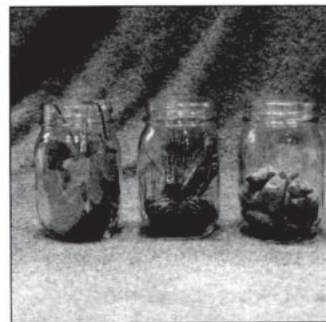
You will need: leaves (works best if each girl chooses one large leaf, maybe two, rather than a cluster of smaller leaves), wooden board, paper to protect the wooden board, thumbtacks, flat, smooth, small rocks or small hammers, glue, twine, ribbon, or colored paper, and a blank journal (or small notebook) and small square of muslin per girl.

Prayer Journal Instructions:

1. Lay the leaf (or two) on the wooden board that is covered with a piece of paper to protect it from staining.
2. Center and place the piece of muslin over the leaf.
3. Use the thumbtacks to secure the corners of the muslin so it won't shift.
4. Using a flat, palm-sized rock or hammer, carefully beat the fabric with consistent, even force.
5. Lift up the muslin and the leaf will have left its green image.
6. Glue the muslin square to the front cover of a blank notebook or journal.
7. To cover the edges of the muslin, glue a border of twine, ribbon or colored paper.



[Windowsill Wonders]



God's Word: *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world (Psalm 19:1-4).*

Devotional Thought: The beauty, wonder, and grandeur of all that God created tells people about His glory. Although the skies cannot vocalize words, they proclaim that God does amazing work. Although the sun and moon seem to hang silently in the sky, they shout to the ends of the earth that God the Creator is glorious! Tonight (today) we're going to go on a nature walk. During our walk, take note of all the details and beauty of God's creation. You'll also need to collect items like pretty stones, leaves, berries, sand, shells, etc. that you'll later store in jars and place on your windowsill as a reminder of how God's creation speaks of His glory.

Craft Counselor: This craft is especially good for a camp experience.

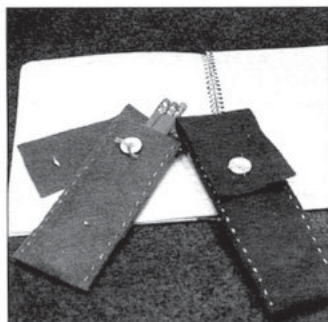
You will need: three or four jars (and their covers) per girl in a variety of sizes (recycled salsa, peanut butter, olive,

pickle and jelly jars) and items from creation that the girls discover on a nature walk: berries, leaves, flowers, sand, etc.

Windowsill Wonders Instructions:

1. Remove the labels from the jars. Wash and dry the jars and lids.
2. Go on a nature walk. Have each girl collect one item per jar. Example: a single leaf, a cup full of sand, a cluster of berries, wildflowers, etc.
3. Distribute the jars to the girls, making sure that each girl receives a variety of shapes and sizes.
4. Place the nature items in the jars, secure the covers, and encourage them to line them up on a windowsill in their home or in the home of an elderly, shut-in friend.

[Felt Pencil Holders]



God’s Word: *Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates (Deuteronomy 11:18, 20).*

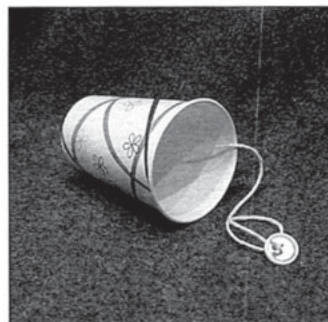
Devotional Thought: God made it clear to the people in the Bible and to us today that He wants us to know His Word, memorize it, meditate on it, and never forget it! He said, fix My words in your hearts and minds, tie them to your hands, bind them to your foreheads, write them on the doorframes of your homes! Although we don’t need to literally write Scripture all over our bodies and homes, we do need to seriously understand His command to know His Word so well it’s as if it’s tattooed to our forehead! To help us remember the importance of writing God’s Word in our minds and hearts, we’re going to create felt pencil holders together.

You will need: embroidery thread, rulers, scissors, and a needle with a large eye, small to medium size button, and a 2 ½-inch x 18-inch piece of felt for each girl.

Felt Pencil Holders Instructions:

1. Cut a 2 ½-inch x 18-inch rectangle of felt.
2. Fold up bottom 6 inches.
3. Hand sew using embroidery thread and a needle.
4. Stitch the sides with a running stitch, passing the needle up from back to front, then reinsert needle to back. Encourage the girls to take their time and to use small, even stitches. Finish with a knot in back.
5. Fold over flap.
6. Sew a button near the bottom of the flap on the body of the pencil case.
7. Cut a corresponding size buttonhole into the flap.

[Quick & Simple Fun]



God’s Word: *I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).*

Devotional Thought: Think about an athlete that you know who has recently

won a gold medal or first place in a tournament or race. How would you describe the way this person trains, practices, and plays? Does she dawdle or drift to the finish line or is she determined and diligent in giving it her all? Being a person of prayer takes serious effort, too. We must press on and give our whole body, mind, and strength to speaking and listening to God! It doesn’t just happen. It takes effort!

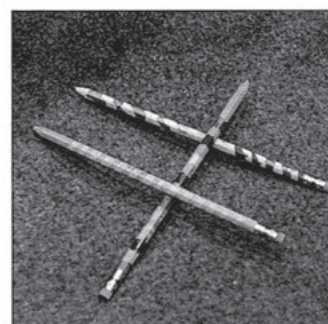
Tonight we’re going to create and then play a simple game that may take some effort. Let’s press on and have some fun!

You will need: a paper cup, pencil, 13-inch piece of ribbon, and two large buttons about the same size per girl.

Quick & Simple Fun Instructions:

1. Take the pencil and poke a tiny hole in the bottom of a paper cup.
2. Thread the piece of ribbon through the hole.
3. Knot a large button on both ends of the ribbon.
4. Start playing your new game! See how many tries it takes to swing the bottom button into the cup!

[Wrap it Up & Write it Down]



God’s Word: *My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart (Proverbs 7:1-3).*

Devotional Thought: In Proverbs 7 we are told to write down God’s commands and teachings, not within our journals – but on the tablets of our hearts. It doesn’t mean literally taking a pencil to our heart and recording Scripture, but instead it means to keep, store, know, and remember God’s commands and the ways He wants us to live. When God’s words are written on our hearts it governs our lives and directs

our words, attitudes, decisions, and actions. Let's paint pencils and use them to remind us about the writing commands God has given us!

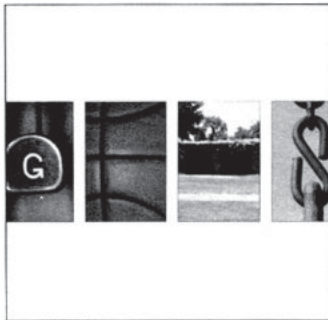
You will need: masking tape, scissors, acrylic paints, paint brushes, and a plain, natural-color cedar pencil per girl.

Wrap it Up & Write it Down

Instructions:

1. Cut the masking tape into very thin strips.
2. Carefully wrap the masking tape around the pencil.
3. Paint the pencil with a single color or alternate colors between the masking tape bands.
4. When paint is thoroughly dry, carefully unwrap the tape.

[Letter Perspectives]



God's Word: *Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine* (Isaiah 43:1b).

Devotional Thought: God knows you by name. He created you, formed you, summoned

you, and says, "You are mine!" He knows when you sit and when you stand, what you're thinking, and what you're going to say before it leaves your lips (Psalm 139:1-6). If you have trouble soaking that all in, you're not alone. Even the writer of Psalm 139 responded in awe saying, *This is too much, too wonderful – I can't take it all in* (Psalm 139:6, MSG)! In a moment we're going to take a walk, study God's creation, and photograph parts of it that look like letters. You can even use the photographs to spell out your name, if you desire. As you seek your name out in creation, know that God's eye is upon you, delighting in His beautiful daughter whom He knows by name.

You will need: a digital camera for each girl and inexpensive frames from thrift shops and rummage sales.

Letter Perspectives Instructions:

1. Go to <http://www.letterperspectives.com> and look at their unique, personalized art that shows black and white photos of ordinary items that we see all around us that look like letters. These letters are then beautifully framed into words and names.
2. Take a walk with the girls making sure each girl has a digital camera and a list of letters they need to find. They may want to spell out their first name, their initials, or a word like prayer, peace, or friends.

3. Develop the pictures in black and white. Mat and frame photos in frames that they've taken from home, or that you've purchased secondhand.

[Jellin' Jar]



God's Word:

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. We should all please our neighbors for their good, to build them up (Romans 15:1-2 TNIV).

Devotional

Thought: A prayer

request that pleases God is when we ask Him to show us people that need to be built up and encouraged. It's natural to seek out ways to please ourselves. We need God to open our eyes to see the people that He wants us to show His goodness and love to. Can you think of someone who is discouraged, lonely, or sad? Tonight (today) we're going to make Jellin' Jars. Please gift your jar to someone who needs encouragement.

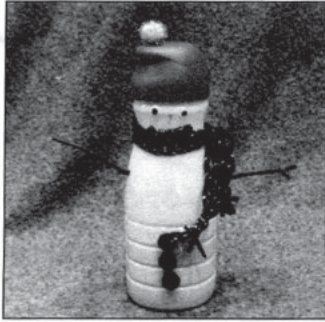
Craft Counselor Note: These Jellin' Jars are joy givers. Make them in early spring and gift them to those who need encouragement. They could also be sold at a GEMS fundraiser.

You will need: a baby food jar and lid for each girl, flat buttons, paint or window markers, paintbrushes, quick setting glue, and jellybeans

Jellin' Jar Instructions:

1. Remove labels. Wash and thoroughly dry baby jars and lids.
2. Glue buttons around the outside of the jar. Vary the height of the buttons. These buttons will serve as the center of your flowers. Hold the buttons in place until the glue is set.
3. Use the paint and/or window markers to paint stems and leaves on the button flowers.
4. Add other decorations as desired.
5. Fill with jellybeans.
6. Gift to someone who needs a word of hope and encouragement!

[Cute-as-a-Button Snow People]



God's Word: *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish*

what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:10-11).

Devotional Thought: What we read in God's book, the Bible, we can know to be true. In Isaiah 55, it says that when it rains and snows, the earth receives moisture. The rain and snow accomplish the task that God gave it – causing flowers, plants, and trees to bloom and grow. In the same way, when God speaks, His word accomplishes His purpose. When Scripture is prayed, read, spoken, and meditated on, it accomplishes what God desires – sometimes comfort, sometimes healing, sometimes a course correction, always exactly what God intends. Let's celebrate the truth of Scripture, rain, and snow by crafting Cute-as-a-Button Snow People.

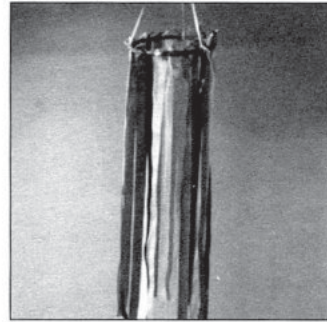
You will need: a coffee creamer bottle (flavored creamers found in the refrigerator section) and two googly eyes per snow person, black beads, colored toothpicks, glittery pompoms, black pompoms, yarn, small twigs, sand, and tacky glue.

Cute-as-a-Button Snow People

Instructions:

1. Remove the plastic wrapper. Rinse and dry creamer bottle.
2. Pour a cup of sand into the creamer bottle.
3. Glue on the googly eyes.
4. Glue on black beads for the mouth.
5. Poke the toothpick in its face area for snow person's nose. Nose should be about 1-inch in length.
6. Glue glittery pompoms on cover for top of hat.
7. Glue black pompoms down the front of the snow person for buttons.
8. Wrap the yarn around snow person's "neck" for the scarf.
9. Insert twigs for arms/hands. Twigs should be about 5 inches in length.

[Simple Windsock]



God's Word: *But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind (James 1:6 TNIV).*

Devotional

Thought: Think about

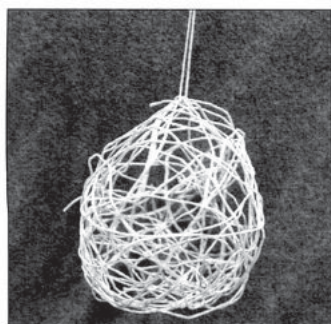
the last time you experienced strong winds. Maybe it was during a thunderstorm, snowstorm, hurricane, or tornado. Small gusts of wind toss about debris and leaves. Severe winds can toss around airplanes, people, and even lift buildings from their foundation. God tells us in the His book, that if we pray and doubt that God will hear and answer our prayers, we're like waves in the sea that are being tossed by the wind. No matter how severe the personal storm in our life is God tells us to pray and believe, anchoring our trust in Him. Tonight (today) we're going to make windsocks that will help us remember to pray with confidence in the One who controls the wind and waves.

You will need: strips of colorful ribbon (½ inch wide, 2 ½ feet long), scissors, paint, paintbrushes, and an embroidery hoop for each girl.

Simple Windsock Instructions:

1. Paint the embroidery hoop and let dry.
2. Ribbon strips should hang vertically from the hoop, spaced about ¼" – ½" apart from one another. Cut enough strips to hang around the circumference of the hoop. Ribbon strips should be cut 2 ½ feet in length (longer or shorter if desired).
3. Tie a knot at one end of each ribbon. The knotted end of the ribbons should rest on top of the clamped embroidery hoop, with the colorful ribbons draping toward the floor.
4. To create the means to hang the windsock, cut four, 8-inch pieces of ribbon. Tie one end of each of these ribbons to the hoop (putting equal space between them) and tie the other end of these ribbons together in a knot. These four ribbons should look like a cone when you lift up the knot.

[String Balloons]



God's Word: *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:2).*

Devotional

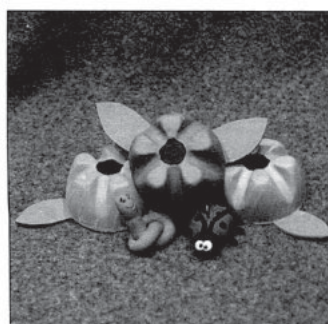
Thought: When we concentrate on things that the world promotes like popularity, success, beauty, and riches, we become transformed or shaped into people that have attitudes and make decisions that break God's heart. When we fix our attention and thoughts on God by reading His Word, listening to God the Holy Spirit, and talking to God in prayer, we become transformed or shaped into people that are able to make good choices and live in a way that pleases God. It's often said that "Prayer Changes Things." Truer still is that prayer changes those who pray. Faithful pray-ers come to know and understand who God is and what He wants for their lives. We're going to create some beautiful modern art, by shaping it around a balloon. As we do, think about how God wants to shape your life when you fix your mind on Him.

You will need: a balloon for each girl, string, yarn, kite string, household twine, and/or embroidery thread, rulers, scissors, waxed paper, masking tape, petroleum jelly, white glue, paper plate, pencil, and safety pins.

String Balloons Instructions:

1. Cover the work surface with waxed paper. Tape down the corners of the paper with masking tape.
2. Cut at least 30 pieces of string between 12 and 15 inches in length.
3. Blow up a balloon and knot it.
4. Cover the balloon with a thin layer of petroleum jelly (like Vaseline).
5. Pour a small amount of white glue on the paper plate.
6. Dip a piece of string through the glue and place it on the greased balloon.
7. Continue to dip all 30 pieces of string into the glue, wrapping and layering the string around the balloon. Use more than 30 pieces of string, if desired.
8. Let dry overnight.
9. When the string is dry, gently poke your finger or a pencil through the strings, pushing the balloon away from the strings.
10. Use a safety pin to pop the balloon. Pull it out through the largest space between the strings.
11. Tie a string to the string balloon and hang from the ceiling.

[Pretty Paperweights]



God's Word: *And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more*

clothe you, O you of little faith (Matthew 6:28-30)?

Devotional Thought: What is your favorite flower? *Listen to responses.* Each time you see a flower or stick your nose into a rose to smell its beauty, it should serve like a sticky-note reminder from God: Do not worry! Jesus told the people to look at the flowers growing around them and to take note. Those flowers don't worry about what they're going to wear in the morning, and neither should we. "Don't worry about your clothes!" said Jesus. If flowers that blossom today and wither tomorrow don't worry, then we need to trust God with our todays and tomorrows, too. Will you do that? Let's create pretty flower paperweights as a reminder of God's command to not worry.

Craft Counselor: You may want the girls to each make two – one as a personal reminder for their own desk and one to gift away. They may want to gift it to someone who has told them about their worries. When they gift it, they should tell what they learned about flowers being a sticky-note reminder from God that they need not worry, God cares for them.

You will need: a recycled two liter plastic bottle and a 9-inch by 12-inch sheet of green craft foam for each girl, black, yellow, orange, and blue acrylic paints, plaster of Paris, pencil, scissors, measuring cup, plastic bowl, paintbrush, newspaper (to protect work surface) and tacky glue. Optional: clear sealer.

Pretty Paperweight Instructions:

1. Cut bottom two inches from plastic bottle. Wash and dry out section. Recycle the top portion of the bottle.
2. Cover the work surface with newspaper. Follow preparation instructions on plaster of Paris, mixing it within the plastic bowl.
3. Pour mixture in the bottom of the plastic bottle. This will create the flower shape. Let set completely.
4. Remove the flower from the plastic and paint in desired color. Let dry.
5. Paint a black circle in the center part of the flower. Let dry.
6. Optional: apply sealer.
7. Place the flower on green craft foam sheet. Trace around the flower and draw three leaf shapes. Cut out shape from the foam sheet. Glue shape on bottom of the flower. Let dry.

[Impressionable Cards]



God's Word: *You hear, O LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry (Psalm 10:17).*

Devotional

Thought: God hears the cries of the humble, poor, and oppressed. He hears and

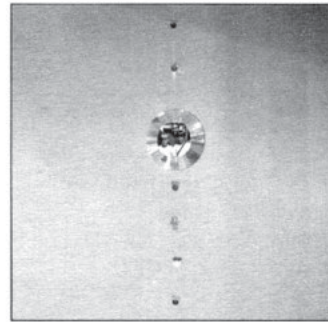
provides hope through His Spirit, His Word, and His people. Followers of Jesus must be willing to be instruments of hope to those who are crying out to God with their hurts and needs. Creating cards that contain encouraging, loving words is one way to deliver hope and smiles to those who need them the most. Let's do that together by making impressionable cards.

You will need: foam grocery trays, scissors, pencils, paper, handheld mirror, sponge paintbrushes, tempera paints, light-colored construction paper, markers, crayons, stickers, glitter, glue, and other embellishments.

Impressionable Card Instructions:

1. Cut foam grocery tray and a piece of paper into a 3-inch by 4-inch rectangle.
2. On the piece of paper, write a two to four word message. Examples: God Loves You, Prayer Changes Things, You are Special, God is Good, etc.
3. Girls should take turns holding the handheld mirrors for one another as they write this message into the foam backwards. Use the mirror to see reverse text. Press the pencil deeply into the foam.
4. Fold a piece of construction paper in half to form a card.
5. Brush a thin layer of paint across the surface of the foam, covering it evenly from edge to edge.
6. Press and rub the front of the construction paper card on top of painted foam, applying pressure.
7. Peel back the paper and let dry.
8. When the paint is dry, write a letter of encouragement inside the card to someone you know that is lonely, sick, or needs a friend. Decorate with embellishments, as desired.
9. If you choose to make more than one card, reapply paint to the foam before each imprint.

[Suncatchers]



God's Word: *Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised (Psalm 113:2-3).*

Devotional

Thought: In Psalm 113

we're reminded to praise God now and forevermore. *From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised (Psalm 113:3).* It's a complete praise – filling all space and all time. The entire creation should give God praise! Think about the prayers you've said in the last 24-hours. On a scale of one to five, one being praise-less and five being praise-filled, how are you doing in telling God how much you adore Him? Tonight (today) we're going to create suncatchers. The sun gives a beautiful reminder that day in and day out, from east to west, the name of the Lord should be praised!

Craft Counselor: This would be a great gift for the girls to give to an elderly prayer partner, friend of GEMS, or shut-in grandparent.

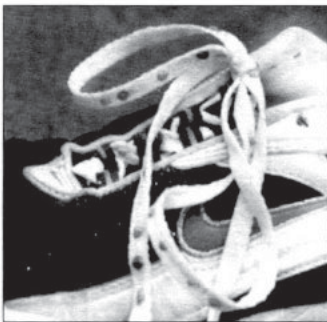
You will need: two plain CDs (the ones that come in the mail are a good option!), two photos of each girl (you can take these at club and have them developed before doing this craft or you may ask girls to bring in their own pictures), fishing line, needles, scissors, double-stick tape, fabric paint, plus pompoms, beads, and/or craft foam shapes. Optional: flat-backed gems.

Suncatcher Instructions:

1. Cut a photo in a circle.
2. Using double-stick tape, attach the photo to the middle of the CD.
3. Use fabric paint to outline the picture. The paint will hide the cut edge.
4. Write your name on the CD with fabric paint.
5. If desired, decorate with the fabric paint, drawing designs and/or pressing the flat-backed gems into the wet fabric paint. (Glitter glue and white craft glue do not stick to the CD so use the paint as your adhesive and dry thoroughly.)
6. Repeat steps 1-5 with the second CD.
7. Cut the fishing line 2 ½-feet to 3-feet in length.
8. Thread a needle on one end of the fishing line. String pompoms or beads to it, spacing them a distance from one another. Leave the middle portion of the fishing line for the CDs. Remove the needle and tie a knot on each end of the fishing line. Be careful not to clutter up the string. Items should seem to be floating.

9. In the middle of the fishing line, use the double-stick tape to attach the CDs back to back with the fishing line in between.
10. If desired, use double-stick tape to attach craft foam shapes back to back with the fishing line in between.
11. Choose your weightiest bead or craft foam to hang from the bottom of the fishing line.
12. Tie to a hook or curtain rod close to a window to catch and reflect the sun.

[Fancy Laces]



God's Word: *And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full (Matthew 6:5 TNIV).*

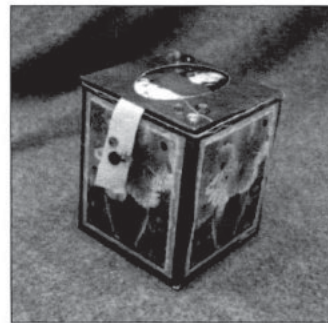
Devotional Thought: It's great fun to use our creativity to add fancy decorations to old picture frames, lampshades, and even shoelaces. (That's what we're going to do in a moment.) There's one place that we should guard against adding any fancy touches. It's our prayer life. Jesus gives a stern warning that we shouldn't use fancy words in our prayers to impress people or God. Prayer should never be treated as a stage to amaze others and to try to give the impression that we're great pray-ers. Instead, we should talk to God from the heart – simple, straightforward, and honest. Fancy touches are for crafts, not your prayers!

You will need: a pair of shoelaces (new or used) for each girl, Easter-egg dye, fabric paints, and permanent markers.

Fancy Laces Instructions:

- Choose one or more options:
1. Soak the laces in Easter-egg dye. You may dye them all one color or dip in several colors. Let dry.
 2. Use fabric paints to make polka dots or squiggles.
 3. Use a permanent marker to write a note or message on the laces.
 4. Create rainbow stripes with permanent markers.
 5. Autograph each other's laces.
 6. Spread a thin layer of sparkly fabric paint on the laces and let dry.

[Photo Gift Box]



God's Word: *Pray for us (1 Thessalonians 5:25).*

Devotional Thought: Paul, a great man of faith who wrote many books of the Bible, wrote this to the church in Thessalonica: *Brothers and sisters, pray for us (1 Thessalonians 5:25).*

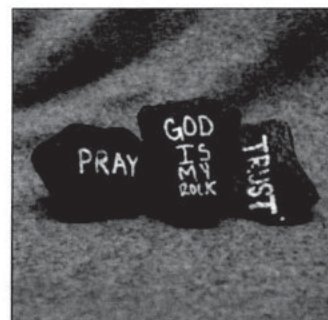
The greatest gift they could give him was to pray. The same is true of you and me today. Tonight (today) we're going to create pretty gift boxes. Although it's great fun to create gifts and even the packages that hold those precious presents, it's greater still to gift one another our prayers!

You will need: an empty, pretty pop-up tissue box, scissors, glue, photograph of each girl (taken at club and developed before doing this craft or a photo the girls bring from home), double-stick tape, colored paper, ribbon, beads, gems, and other embellishments.

Photo Gift Box Instructions:

1. Cut the clear plastic out of the top of the tissue box.
2. Cut through three sides of the top of the tissue box so the lid lifts open and closed.
3. Lift the lid and use the double-stick tape to adhere the photo inside the box lid so it shows through the hole in the top.
4. Cut the ribbon 3 to 4-inches in length.
5. Tape the ribbon inside the box lid so it sticks out of the front center of the lid.
6. Cut a piece of colored paper to fit the inside of the lid. Tape it in place.
7. Glue beads, gems, or other embellishments on the ribbon and/or the box.
8. Place a gift inside the box and gift it to someone. It'll be difficult to guess what they'll like more – the pretty box or the gift it contains!

[Message Rocks]



God's Word: *But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge (Psalm 94:22).*

Devotional Thought: David wrote many of the Psalms that are found in God's book, the Bible.

Within those Psalms or songs that he wrote, he praised God for being his rock. When David was hiding from his enemies, he took refuge in the rocks of the desert. This may be why he continually praised God his Rock – because he knew that’s where true security, refuge, and help can be found – in God alone. God is your Rock, too! May David’s words be our words, *The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Savior* (2 Samuel 22:47)! Tonight (today) we’re going to paint message rocks that you can give to your friends that contain the truth that God rocks!

You will need: flat, palm-sized rocks, newspapers (to protect work surface), black acrylic paint, paintbrushes, gel pens or glittery dimensional paint.

Message Rock Instructions:

1. Collect flat, palm-sized rocks on a walk through the country or on the beach.
2. Spread the newspapers over the work surface.
3. Wash, dry, and paint the rocks with black acrylic paint.
4. After paint is dry, use the gel pens or glittery dimensional paints to write messages on the rocks. Examples: He is the Rock, Praise the Rock, Pray, Trust, God my Rock, Believe.
5. Keep one rock for yourself and gift the others away!

[Pretty Pottery]



God’s Word: *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us* (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Devotional Thought:

Paul wrote to the church in Corinthians, *We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us* (2 Corinthians 4:7). To cut to the heart of the verse, Paul is calling those who follow Jesus clay pots. That’s not a compliment, but it certainly is our reality. Like clay pots we’re weak, ordinary, and perishable. The great news is not what we are, but what we contain – God’s all-surpassing power! Through God, the Holy Spirit, we have the power to tell people about Jesus, we have the power to pray, and we have the power to do God’s work. Our responsibility is to let people see God’s power shining through our weak, clay selves. We’re going to make pretty clay pots together and then give them away. Be sure that you tell the person you gift your pot to what you learned about being a clay pot that contains God’s power.

You will need: a terra-cotta pot and saucer for each girl (choose whatever size you desire), black acrylic paint, paintbrushes, used stamps, glue stick, and matte varnish. Optional: plant a flower in each pot.

Craft Counselor: With a flower planted in the pretty pots these make beautiful gifts for elderly care facility residents, adopt-a-grandparent or prayer partners, teacher appreciation gifts, or Mother’s Day.

Pretty Pottery Instructions:

1. Paint the inside and outside of the pot with black acrylic paint. If a second coat is needed, let dry between coats.
2. Use the glue stick to glue the stamps in columns around the pot.
3. Apply two coats of matte varnish to protect the finish and stamps, allowing the varnish to dry between coats.
4. Optional: paint the saucer a color that matches the stamps.
5. Optional: plant a flower in each pot.

[Foot-astic Pencil Holder]



God’s Word: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path* (Psalm 119:105).

Devotional Thought:

If a person was tripping, stumbling, and losing their way in the dark of night and you learned that they were holding a flashlight that they refused to turn on, what would you say? *Listen to responses.* It seems ridiculous, doesn’t it? If you can’t see your way and refuse to use an available light, it is absurd and foolish. The Bible tells us that God’s Word, the Bible, is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. When we wonder about how to make good choices, build relationships, and treat our enemies, but refuse to read God’s Word, it’s as if we’re stumbling in the dark, pushing the “off” button on our flashlight. The Bible is our lamp, but to walk in its light, we need to open it up, read, trust, and obey. Let’s think about walking in God’s light as we create foot-astic pencil holders.

You will need: one colorful sock per girl (Toe-socks preferred. Use whatever socks the girls can bring in from home that have lost their match!) and a lid, cup, or jar, approximately 2 inches wide and 2 inches deep (baby jars, hair spray-can lids work great) per girl, plus rice.

Foot-astic Pencil Holder Instructions:

1. Fill each sock about 2/3 full with rice. If using toe-socks, shake the rice down into all the toes!
2. Place the lid, cup, or jar inside the ankle/heel portion of the sock. This will serve as the pencil holder.
3. Store your pencils and pens in your foot-tastic holder!

[GREAT CRAFT RESOURCES]

The Internet

Better Homes and Gardens

www.bhg.com/bhg/family/

Look for these especially neat crafts to gift away: Flower Power, Big Hug Greeting Card, Recycled Jewelry Holders, Art Display Board, Cute Button Hairclips, Precious Pincushion, Custom Photo Album, Simple Pouch, and Craft Cute Daisy May Baskets.

Family Fun

www.familyfun.com

Check out these fun projects for kids: Box Office, Folded-Paper Box, Pipe Cleaner Dolls, Tie-dyed Socks, Macramé Bracelets, Pocket Place Mats, Star Candleholder, Fish Swivel Bracelet, and Word for Word Necklace.

Hands On Crafts for Kids

www.craftforkids.com/projects.htm

Check out these crafts for kids: Seeds of Friendship, Dominoes to Go!, Window Card, Star Windsock, Initial Tin, Beaded Ornaments, Door Harp, Wire Wreath, Snowman Bookmark, and Candy Ornaments.

Thrifty Fun

www.thriftyfun.com

Look for these fun crafts that promote recycling and creation stewardship: Juice Pouch Lunch Bag (made from Kool-Jammer or Capri Sun pouches), Coffee Container Bird Feeder and Clothes Pin Holder, Hugs and Kisses Basket, Denim Locker Pockets, Mini Clay Pot Bird Bath, Hair Clip Organizer, Tile Art – Painting Tiles, Recycled Hanging Planter, How to Make Beaded Earrings, and How to Make Paper Beads.

Books

About.com Guide to Family Crafts: 150 Simple and Fun Projects Everyone Can Make Together by Sherri Osborn, Adams Media, 2007. The book features more than 150 diverse and low-cost projects that include crafts from trash, gifts for everyone, make-it and wear-it, and pick a theme.

Creative Crafts for Kids: Over 100 Fun Projects for Two to Ten Year Olds by Gill Dickinson and Cheryl Owen, Hamlyn, 2007. Each spread presents one project, the potential audience, and the approximate time it will take to complete it. Pictures of the final item are also included. Projects include a jazzy t-shirt, fancy cake, and hand-painted wrapping paper.

Quick Knits by Judy Ann Sadler, 2006. This book is part of the great Kids Can Do It Series. Its age range is for children in grades 4-6. It contains clear, colorful illustrations and thorough directions. There are ten projects within its pages including a hat, backpack, wallet, pillow, and slippers.

The Best Craft Book Ever by Jane Bull, DK Children, 2006. The book contains over 200 ways to get creative with kids. The projects are easy to do and include handy hangers, potted presents, finger knitting, cotton fabric dolls, beginning cross-stitch, and string things.

Theme Skits 2020

[Hearing God's Voice]

Liz: (enters wearing carpenter's apron, carrying lumber and a hammer)

Amy: (enters opposite) Well, don't you look like a carpenter?!

Liz: The guy at the lumber store sold me everything I'd need.

Amy: Need. Need for what?

Liz: I'm building a prayer closet.

Amy: A what?

Liz: A prayer closet.

Amy: Why do you think you need a prayer closet? Don't you already have a quiet place to read the Bible and pray?

Liz: Yes. But it's not a prayer closet.

Amy: And what does a prayer closet have that you don't already have?

Liz: R-19.

Amy: R-19?

Liz: Yes, R-19 insulation. When I'm done with it, my prayer closet will be completely isolated from the outside world.

Amy: But, when you close the door to your room you're isolated from the outside world.

Liz: Not R-19 isolated. The lumber store guy says that with R-19 insulation, a 747 could fly over my house and I could still hear a pin drop inside my prayer closet!

Amy: Is it important for you to hear pins dropping?

Liz: Silly goosel! It's a figure of speech! The reason I need it so quiet is so I can be sure that there won't be any distractions.

Amy: I don't know how to tell you this, but R-19 insulation is not going to remove your distractions.

Liz: It won't?

Amy: No.

Liz: I knew it! I should have bought R-30! (turns, nearly hitting Amy in the head with the lumber)

Amy: (ducks) R-30 won't do it either.

Liz: It won't?

Amy: No.

Liz: Well, how much insulation do I need?! My walls can only be so thick! Any thicker and I'll have to get a new construction license.

Amy: No, you don't understand. Most of your distractions are not from noise or anything else external. Most of your distractions are from within.

Liz: Well, the inside of my prayer closet will have no pictures. It won't even have wallpaper.

Amy: I'm talking about the inside of your head!

Liz: Oh. I had the feeling I was taking the wrong approach. think I'll go back to Plan A.

Amy: What was Plan A?

Liz: A 2000-watt audio amplifier.

Amy: A 2000-watt audio amplifier? I'm not sure I want to hear about this.

Liz: (ignoring the last comment) You see, with all the distractions, I wasn't sure I would be able to hear God's voice. But if I could get God to use a 2000-watt audio amplifier....

Amy: ...God would talk louder.

Liz: Yes.

Amy: (exiting) Stick to the prayer closet.

Liz: Wait a minute! You just said that a prayer closet wouldn't work!

Amy: (stops, turns) A 2000-watt audio amplifier won't work either.

Liz: Oh, sure. Go ahead. Burst my balloon.

Liz: Listen, I don't want to hurt your feelings.

Amy: Well, just tell me, then, just how am I supposed to know what God's will is for my life?

Amy: (exiting) Read your Bible.

Liz: Wait a minute.

Amy: (stops, turns) What?

Liz: That's too easy.

Amy: Yeah, life is like that sometimes.

Liz: It can't be that simple.

Amy: Why not?

Liz: Well, what about the distractions?

Amy: What about the distractions?

Liz: What if God is trying to tell me something and I'm too distracted to hear Him?

Amy: I'm afraid you've forgotten the lesson of Balaam and his donkey.

Liz: What does Balaam have to do with distractions?

Amy: Balaam was not even a believer. He was defying the will of the Lord. But the Lord was able to communicate with him anyway...

Liz: ...Through the donkey. Oh.

Amy: Do you think that the God who created the universe with the spoken word doesn't have the technology to communicate with you if he really wanted to?

Liz: I... I see what you're saying. If God really wanted to communicate His will to me, there is no way I could keep Him from doing it.

Amy: That's the way I see it.

Liz: Then, why am I doing this?

Amy: You mean, other than because you have too small a view of God?

Liz: Why don't I feel like I know God's will?

Amy: I can think of two reasons. The first possibility is that you once knew God's will, but you just forgot it. The second possibility is that you know God's will and you don't like it and want to tell God to try again with something more interesting. Plan B.

Liz: Oh.

Amy: So, which is it for you?

Liz: Both. When I first became a Christian, I was really hot for Jesus. I wanted to know more about Him. I wanted to BE like Him. But I thought I graduated to the next level. But there is no next level. That's always what God wants for me, to know Him more and to be more like Him.

Amy: (exiting) Naw, that's too simple.

Liz: (follows) Say, did I ever tell you about Plan C?

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[LISTEN!]

(scene: swivel chair, end table, straight chair, TV remote control, walkman and headphones, Sunday comics)

Liz: (enters, kneels next to chairs) Lord, Amy says that she and I have some communication problems. So, I'm turning my problems over to you, okay? Amen. (sits in swivel chair, picks up remote, switches on imaginary TV at rear of audience, changes channels several times, puts on headphones, switches on walkman, sings a popular tune with gestures from the latest rock video, picks up comics, reads, turns pages)

Amy: (enters sits) We have to talk.

Liz: (sings another bar from the latest rock video)

Amy: (picks up remote, switches off TV) Hey, I said we have to talk.

Liz: (eyes closed, sings another bar from the latest rock video)

Amy: (picks up walkman, switches it off) Hey, I said we have to talk.

Liz: (crunches paper to lap) What happened to my tunes?

Amy: (moves mouth as if speaking)

Liz: (removes headphones) What?

Amy: You're hopeless.

Liz: What are you talking about? I suppose you're putting all the blame for our communication problems on me.

Amy: No. But I'll bet I know why the Lord doesn't answer your prayers.

Liz: What does that have to do with our communication problem? Hey. How do you know if the Lord answers my prayers or not?

Amy: Does He?

Liz: I don't have to tell you. (picks up TV remote, turns on TV, puts on headphones, turns on walkman, lifts paper, swivels away, sings another bar of the latest rock tune)

Amy: (arms crossed, waits patiently)

Liz: (long pause, swivels chair) Alright. I'm listening.

Amy: (taps own ear)

Liz: (crunches paper to lap, turns off walkman, takes off headphones) This better not turn into a lecture.

Amy: (nods toward TV)

Liz: (picks up remote control, turns off TV) Alright, how did you know that the Lord hasn't answered my prayers in months?

Amy: I didn't.

Liz: I knew it. (puts headphones on)

Amy: (moves mouth as if talking)

Liz: (removes headphones) What?

Amy: I didn't say anything. (stands, moves to exit)

Liz: (removes headphones, throws paper on floor) Alright, I'm listening. How did you know that the Lord wasn't answering my prayers lately?

Amy: (returns to chair, sits) Because people usually communicate with God the way they communicate with everyone else.

Liz: I knew you'd turn this into a lecture on my communication skills.

Amy: (stands) Well, I certainly wouldn't want to lecture you.

Liz: I hate it when you do that!

Amy: Do what?

Liz: Whenever you have something you know I want, you press your advantage.

Amy: We can talk about this later.

Liz: (sigh) Alright. Lecture me. What do my communication skills have to do with God not answering my prayers?

Amy: You DID pray about our communication problems, didn't you?

Liz: Yes. Just now.

Amy: What did God say?

Liz: Nothing yet.

Amy: How do you know?

Liz: What do you mean?

Liz: Oh. I know what this lecture is about. This is about listening to music and watching TV and reading the paper. What is it you always call it?

Amy: Junk food for the mind.

Liz: Yeah. That's it. Junk food for the mind. Okay. I hear you. Good lecture. Thank you very much. Now tell me what junk food has to do with answered prayer.

Amy: Maybe the Lord has been talking to you and you haven't been listening.

Liz: The Lord doesn't talk to people like that.

Amy: How would you know? Have you ever just sat quietly and listened for the Lord's answer?

Liz: Well, no. But...

Amy: But what?

Liz: I hate to just sit quietly.

Amy: Why?

Liz: Why?

Amy: Yes. Why do you hate to sit quietly?

Liz: Because... because... You're really getting a kick out of psychoanalyzing me, aren't you?

Amy: You don't have to tell me. You can go on without getting any answers to your prayers.

Liz: Alright, I'll tell you. I hate to sit quietly, just doing nothing, because I start to think about... things.

Amy: What things?

Liz: You know, things. Things I've done wrong.

Amy: Maybe when those things come to mind, you should confess them to God.

Liz: I suppose I could try that. But some of those things I've already confessed. And I still feel guilty about them.

Amy: Maybe when you still feel guilty about them, you ought to share your guilty feelings with God.

Liz: Oh. I suppose I could try that. But I also think about things I should be doing that I haven't started yet.

Amy: Things you know the Lord wants you to do?

Liz: Yeah.

Amy: That's probably the crux of your problem with answered prayer.

Liz: What is?

Amy: Why would the Lord give you more instructions if you haven't followed His previous instructions?

Liz: (not listening) See, then I start feeling guilty about it and I start feeling guilty about feeling guilty, then I start making excuses for feeling guilty. It's... just... better... if I don't spend much time thinking about anything. It's easier if I just (holds up headphones) fill my head with spiritual junk food and not communicate at all.

Amy: (smiles, nods)

Liz: (sigh) You're right. It's exactly like my communications with you. I hate it when you're right. (stands, moves to exit) I'll be back in an hour. Will you have time to talk then?

Amy: (stands) Where are you going?

Liz: (turns) I'm going to find a quiet place and just sit quietly and listen to God for a while.

Amy: For an hour?!

Liz: It's going to take that long just to confess all the excuses and strategies I've used to avoid listening. (exits)

Amy: (exits opposite) Oh, that reminds me. I haven't had my quiet time today.

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[Answers to prayer: yes, no, or wait]

(scene: a rubix cube on a small table)

Amy: (enters dressed for church, shouts) Let's go. It's time to leave.

Liz: (enters dressed for church, slouching, sighs) I don't think I'm going. You can leave without me.

Amy: But you always go to church! Aren't you feeling well?

Liz: I feel alright. It's just....

Amy: Just what?

Liz: Well, if you must know, I'm mad at God.

Amy: You're... mad? At God?

Liz: Yes.

Amy: Why?

Liz: Well, I've been praying for weeks about something and I think God is stonewalling me.

Amy: Stonewalling.

Liz: Yes, He won't tell me YES. He won't tell me NO. He won't even tell me MAYBE. He's stonewalling.

Amy: (sighs) Come to church.

Liz: No. Maybe if God notices I'm not there, he'll get off dead-center and answer my prayer. Even a NO answer would be better than stonewalling.

Amy: (sighs) Alright. I tell you what. While I'm gone, I'll give you something to do.

Liz: What.

Amy: (picks up Rubix cube) If you can solve this Rubix cube, I'll write you a check for a thousand dollars.

Liz: A thousand dollars?!

Amy: I thought that would lift your spirits.

Liz: A thousand dollars is a lot of money for you. You obviously think I can't solve this puzzle, or you wouldn't put that much money on the line.

Amy: Well, can you?

Liz: As a matter of fact, I did solve it several years ago. It took a while, but I did it.

Amy: Good.

Liz: I could use a thousand dollars.

Amy: (exiting) Good! I'll see you after church. (stops, turns) Oh, by the way, you have to solve it in less than two minutes.

Liz: Two minutes!

Amy: Yes.

Liz: But it took me three days to solve it last time!

Amy: But you've solved it before. It should be easy for you.

Liz: You obviously don't know anything about a Rubix cube! There's a lot of matching and twisting to solve this thing! You're being unreasonable!

Amy: I'm not being any more unreasonable with you than you are with God.

Liz: How am I being unreasonable with God?

Amy: (approaches) Well, for one thing you left out one possible answer to prayer.

Liz: Which possible answer is that?

Amy: Well, in addition to YES and NO or even MAYBE, it's possible that God's answer to you now is WAIT.

Liz: Wait.

Amy: Yes, WAIT.

Liz: I doubt it. God can do anything with the snap of His fingers. (demonstrates)

Amy: Of course He CAN do it instantly. But for the most part, since Jesus ascended into Heaven, He works through His people.

Liz: You mean US?

Amy: Yes. What I'm saying is God may have already set in motion His solution to your prayer request, but if the answer to your prayer involves people, the best of God's people are already busy answering prayers for others.

Liz: So, you think the reason I haven't heard from God is that I have to wait my turn.

Amy: Let's use the RUBIX cube as an example.

Liz: (shows cube) This?

Amy: Yes, (points) suppose this person in this square was chosen by God to help with the answer to your prayer. But he is currently on a short-term mission trip to Malaysia. When he gets back, he's due to have lunch with (points to opposite side of cube) this person way over here, but this person is also busy answering somebody else's prayer (takes cube, twists). When they finally get together, their conversation is overheard by (twists cube, points) this person here, who mentions what he overheard to.... (twists cube)

Liz: (takes cube) Alright, I get the point. When God uses people to answer my prayer, it doesn't happen right away.

Amy: That's right. A lot of people and resources have to line up just right to answer your prayer. But that's not the limiting factor.

Liz: What IS the limiting factor?

Amy: (takes cube, turns it upside down, points) This person here has to be mentally and spiritually prepared when the previous events all come together at the precise moment.

Liz: Who do you think that might be?

Amy: YOU.

Liz: Me?!

Amy: In order for God to get the credit for all this manipulation, the answer to your prayer will be better than your wildest dream. But if you're not mentally and spiritually prepared, (twists puzzle twice) The answer to your prayer might be right in front of you and you wouldn't even recognize it. (drops cube into Liz's hand)

Liz: (tilts head, studies cube) Oh. (turns cube) Oh. (drops cube into Amy's hand, exits)

Amy: Where are you going?

Liz: (stops, turns) To church. I've got to get ready for the answer to my prayer! (exits)

Amy: (smiles at cube, drops on table, follows) Now there's a solution!

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[Gossip & Prayer]

Liz: (enters with Peg) Wasn't this a great workshop?

Peg: Best one I've ever been to.

Liz: I really like the format of this workshop. I've never gotten to know so many people so well and so fast.

Amy: (follows with Sue) I know. I think it was a good idea to pair us up with so many different people.

Sue: I agree. I didn't know anyone here. I was kind of apprehensive about going to a workshop with strangers.

Liz: Well, before we go our separate ways, would you mind if we pray?

Peg: (pause, looks at others) Oh, ah, sure.

Amy: Okay.

Sue: Yeah. I'd like that.

(all form semicircle facing audience, hold hands, bow heads)

Liz: Lord God Almighty, we praise You for this very successful and useful workshop. And we thank You for the new friends we've made. Lord, I ask for Your healing and mercy on Peggy, who recently fell off the wagon and started drinking again.

Peg: (bursts into tears, exits) I asked her not to tell anyone.

Liz: Lord, I pray also for Amy who went off of her diet recently and who ate a half-gallon of Ben and Jerry's chocolate fudge mocha ice cream.

Amy: (bursts into tears, exits) I told her that in confidence.

Liz: Finally, Lord, I pray for self-control for Sue, who had her credit card confiscated after her shopping spree.

Sue: (gasps)

Liz: Well, Lord thanks again for a great workshop. And bless these women as they return home. (lifts head, looks left and right) Isn't anybody going to say AMEN?

Sue: I think one of us would have said AMEN, if what you were doing was praying.

Liz: I WAS praying!

Sue: No. What you were doing was breaking two of the ten commandments.

Liz: What two commandments?!

Sue: First of all, you were not praying, you were gossiping in the name of the Lord. That's using the Lord's name in vain.

Liz: Gossiping?!

Sue: All of us told you our secrets in private supposing that you would keep them private. But you dangled our secrets in front of everyone without any remorse for hurting our feelings.

Liz: I was praying for healing and mercy.

Sue: You were gossiping using spiritual sounding language.

Liz: How is that the breaking of a commandment?

Sue: Gossip is character assassination. It's a kind of spiritual murder. And you were doing it using God's name as a disguise so no one could fault you for it. (exiting) I'm just sorry that spiritual murder doesn't carry a prison sentence.

Liz: Well! I never! You try to point out people's flaws and what thanks do you get?! (exits)

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