

Lesson 3 Additional Lesson Extension

Materials



Discovering

Alternate Version of Discovering Story

Collect the following items for use in the storytelling:

- acorn
- loaf of homemade bread
- two or three flowers
- candle
- feather to represent a bird in flight

Alternate Version of Discovering Story

- Just before the lesson, place the items for the story near you when you begin.

Today we have a story about a brother and sister and their grandmother, Nana. Their father was sick, so Nana was taking care of them. They had a picnic in their backyard.

Pray Always

Rachel, David, and Nana were sitting on a blanket under the oak tree. The wind gently ruffled the leaves. Nearby grew pretty flowers David and Rachel had planted with Daddy.

“This beautiful tree is so tall, it seems to be reaching for the sky!” Nana exclaimed.

Rachel picked up a leaf that had fallen. It was time for the leaves to start changing colors before winter. They looked closely at the leaf. It had two colors, green and dark red.

Plonk! Something small fell from the tree. “An acorn!” said David. “A seed for another oak tree!”

Nana touched the leaf and the acorn. “Praise God, our Creator, who gives us the oak and the acorn and all good things!”

- Place the acorn in front of the children.

“Let’s say a blessing prayer before we eat, like Jesus did,” Rachel said.

“Blessed are you, our God, who gives us this food,” said Nana.

“And please bless our bread and cheese and apples. Amen,” David prayed.

It got darker as they sat on the porch. The wind shook some leaves from the oak tree. "I'm scared," said David.

"Me too," said Rachel.

Nana lit a candle. The little light seemed brave in the darkness. Nana sat between Rachel and David. "Let's pray because you feel scared," Nana suggested. "Jesus knows how it feels to be scared. We can ask him to protect us and help us feel brave."

- Place the candle near the children.

As the rain fell and the wind blew, they held hands and asked Jesus to keep them safe and to help them be brave. Nana squeezed their hands a little so they could feel her bravery too.

They sat quietly, watching the storm. Soon there was less and less rain, and then none at all.

"Daddy likes storms," said Rachel. "It's too bad he had to stay in bed and miss watching it. Let's pray that his cold gets better soon."

As they prayed for their father, a bird flew out of a tree and into the sky. David laughed. "It is as if the bird took our prayer for Daddy to God!"

- Place the feather near the other items.

Nana smiled and then pointed to the clouds. They were moving fast, and the sun was peeking through them. "That was a big storm!" Rachel said.

Rachel, David, and Nana snuggled together on the porch and the sun began to shine again.

That is our story. Rachel, David, and Nana prayed together in different ways. There are

names for those kinds of prayers. You can help your family know about these kinds of prayers too.

- Using the five items, review with the children the five ways we pray.

There are five kinds of prayers that David and Rachel and Nana prayed.

- Hold up the acorn.

Remember when Nana said, "Praise God, our Creator, who gives us the oak and the acorn and all good things!"? This is called a Praise Prayer.

- Hold up the bread.

Remember when Nana said, "Blessed are you, our God, who gives us this food," and David added, "And please bless our bread and cheese and apples."? This is called a Blessing Prayer.

- Hold up the flowers.

Remember when David said, "Let's thank God for the food and all the beautiful things like our flowers."? This is called a Thanksgiving Prayer.

- Hold up the candle.

Remember when Nana said, "Let's pray because you feel scared. Jesus knows how it feels to be scared. We can ask him to protect us and help us feel brave."? This is called a Petition Prayer.

- Hold up the feather.

Remember when Rachel said, "Let's pray that Daddy's cold gets better soon."? This is called an Intercession Prayer. The bird represents our prayers rising to God.

- Remind the children that there are five ways to pray: Praise, Blessing, Thanksgiving, Petition, and Intercession.

Lesson 3 Additional Activity



Lesson Extension 2

Prayer Pillowcases Activity (Activity Variation)



- Computer-savvy catechists can copy the Pillowcase Prayer (Activity Master 3), print it on T-shirt transfer paper, and iron on the pillow case prior to the session. (You can also include a morning prayer and place it on the other side of the pillowcase.)