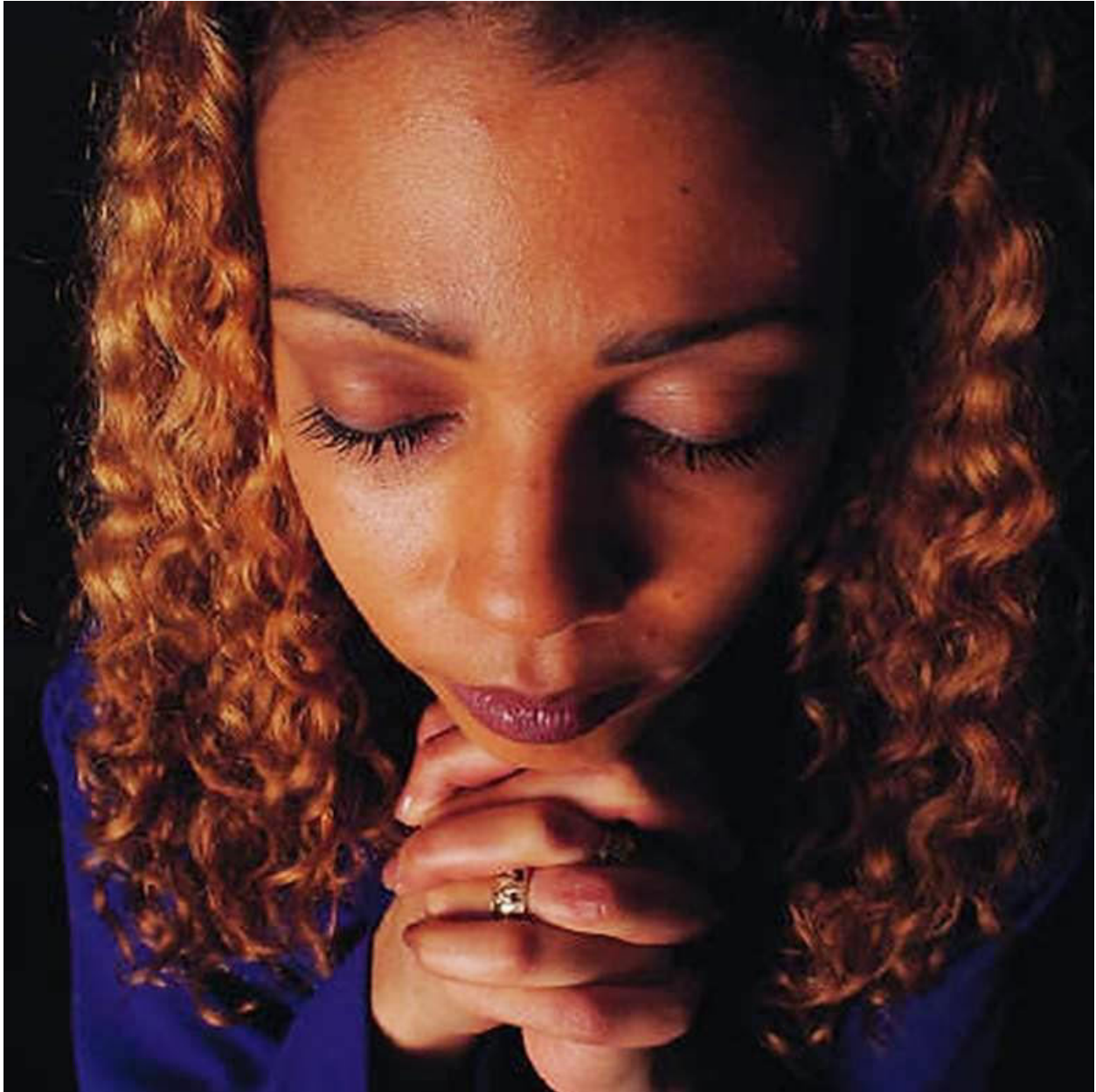


Prayer Warriors



1. Pre service/ Ice breaker (10 min Act it out Broken Telephone

Kids should stand in 1 line behind one another. 1 volunteer is meant to act out a certain action at the end of the line demonstrating to the last person in the line. The child should act it out to the person Infront of them. Then that person acts it out to the next person. This pattern continues until they get to the first person.):

2. Praise and worship (15 min):

- Jeso Fela (3C Live)
- I am free (3C Live)
- Hymn Medley (3C Live)

3. Ministry to kids (5 min):

Pray for the needs of kids. (A leader can prepare a short scripture for ministry)

4. Offering (5 min):

Encourage kids to bring their offering. (A volunteer can prepare a scripture for offering) Pray a blessing as they give.

5. Announcements (3 min):

Bring a buddy day coming soon – Invite friends from your list of 10

6. Birthdays (5 min):

Celebrate birthdays that have happened in the past week. Sing and pray for the children. Give a special birthday treat to the birthday people for the month.

7. Lesson (20-30 min)

Lesson objective:

- Teaching children about the importance of resisting temptation
- Teach children the importance of prayer in the midst of temptation

Memory verse: Matthew 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Declaration: “In the midst of temptation, I will stay in the middle of God’s will, as close to God as possible”

Opening:

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- Begin by asking the children if they have ever found themselves in a situation where they were tempted to do something and they did not know what to do.
 - Discuss the importance of prayer when faced with temptations .

Points to discuss:

1. Temptation and Submission to God's will.
2. The importance of prayer in temptation.
3. The role of watching and praying.
4. Spiritual Vigilance.

Points to discuss further:

1. Temptation and Submission to God's will

- In the Garden of Gethsemane we see that Jesus was in distress before going to the cross. (Ask = what do you do when you face a distressing situation?)
- In His distress, He knew that He had to submit to God's will.
- Matthew 26:39 *"Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."*
- Jesus learned to pray and surrender to God even when He was in deep distress.
- We need to learn to go to God first and pray to Him when we are facing tough situations.

2. The position of the disciples

- Jesus returned to find 3 of His disciples sleeping, after He had asked them to pray with Him. (Ask = how would you feel if you found your friends sleeping when they are supposed to be praying with you?)
- *Matthew 26: 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping*
- The disciples did not realise how much they needed God. They thought they were ok and strong. They did not feel the need for communion with the Lord.
- We have to know that when we do not pray/ seek God in prayer, we are self reliant and in a dangerous place because we can easily be tempted and deceived by the devil.
- Being tired is not an excuse to not pray.

3. Watching and Praying

- *Matthew 26: 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. 41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*
- Watching – In watching, we have an active awareness of our environment, our thoughts, our actions; ensuring that we're not caught off guard by challenges and temptations that arise.
- Praying – Connects us to God's strength
- Not only do we learn to confront temptation with prayer but we learn that prayer is not a means of bending God's will to our own but of submitting our wills to His. If Jesus submitted His perfect will to the Father's, how much more should we submit our imperfect wills to His?

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- The essence of our praying: that in the face of temptation we should be crying out to God for His strength to RESIST the impulse to rebel against God's will, which is what EVERY SIN IS.
 - The combination of watching and praying creates a balanced life: It creates an active, engaged spirituality.
 - Watching without praying can lead to self-reliance, where one might believe that vigilance alone is sufficient.
 - Praying without watching can result in passivity, expecting divine intervention without taking personal responsibility for one's actions.

Application (can be done in groups)

Pray this prayer with the group:

Psalms 51:1–13 (NKJV) ¹ Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness (unfailing love); According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity (guilt), And cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions (rebellion), And my sin troubles me day and night ⁴ Against You, I have sinned, and committed evil in Your sight ... ⁵ I was born a sinner and you ⁶ desire honesty and transparency from my heart ⁷ O GOD PLEASE purify me from my sins, and I WILL be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ So that I can be glad and rejoice. ⁹ Cover my sins (with the Blood of the Lamb) ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast (loyal) spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit (make me willing to obey you). ¹³ *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You (Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you.)

Challenge for the week:

- Commit to a life of prayer (Set a time and place for daily seeking God)
- See challenge paper for the week