



**Vacation Church School
Life of Christ # 2**

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. John 10:16

Lesson: Jesus Blesses the Children

Memory Verse: Verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil... III Nephi 8: 47

Goals:

1. Know why Jesus came to this land.
2. Relate the events of the story
3. Relate how blessings are done in the Jesus' church today
4. Recognize the "Lord's Prayer" as Jesus' example of prayer.

Vocabulary:

1. miracles
2. angel
3. blessed
4. Elder

Scripture References:

III Nephi 8:12-27

III Nephi 5:97-106

Matthew 6:5-13

III Nephi 8:47-57

Matthew 19:13-14

Introduction:

How many of you have ever heard someone pray for you? Why were they praying for you? Your fathers or mothers probably pray for you many times each day. Sometimes you hear them pray and other times they pray quietly and no one but God hears their words. Isn't wonderful to know that others love you and want God to be close to you, to care for you? Other people pray for you too: aunts, uncles, grandparents, sisters, brothers, your friends in church, sometimes even people that don't know you.

There is someone else who cares for you. It is Jesus. Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear Jesus pray for you? In today's story, the Nephites will hear Jesus' pray for them and He will teach them how to pray also.

Story:

What an exciting day it was for the Nephites! They had witnessed great miracles this day as Jesus had healed all of their sick. They had seen the blind, deaf, dumb and lame healed! They loved Jesus very much. He had done miracles in Jerusalem and now because of their faith he had blessed the Nephites in the same way! Jesus had much more that he wanted to do for them.

Jesus commanded that the little children be brought to Him. As they sat on the ground around Jesus he commanded all the grown-ups to kneel to the ground. He wanted to pray to God.

Jesus felt so much love for these people, but he also felt sad. Do you know why he felt sad?...He felt sad because of their sins. They did not obey all of his commandments. He talked to God.

"Father," he said, "I am sad because of the wickedness of the House of Israel."

Then Jesus knelt, too, and continued praying. The people had never heard anyone pray like Jesus prayed that day. His prayer was so special that no one who heard it could write the words down! As the Nephites listened to Jesus pray for them, they were filled with great joy.

When Jesus was done praying, he talked to the people. "Blessed are you because of your faith. My joy is full!" Do you know what Jesus did then? Jesus cried. Why do you think he cried? Was he still sad?...He said he was full of joy which means he was very happy. Sometimes grown ups cry when they are happy too. That is why Jesus cried.

Then He took their little children one by one and blessed them. He prayed for them. After he was done, he prayed again. He felt so much love for the Nephite children.

"Behold you little ones," he said. The people looked up towards heaven and what do you think they saw? Angels were coming down from heaven as if in the midst of fire. The angels formed a circle around the children and blessed them. It looked as if they were circled with fire! All the Nephites—about 2,500 men, women, and children—saw this amazing sight, this special blessing for the children.

Conversation:

Could children be blessed today? Many of you in this room have been blessed as little children. Have you ever seen a baby being blessed? What do they do? Well, two Elders of Jesus' church, who have power from God to lay their hands on the baby and pray for a blessing on the child in Jesus' name, ask the parents to bring the child. Then they lay their hands on the child and pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. What will they pray for?... They will ask God to protect the child. They may ask God to help the baby grow up to be a part of Jesus' church, to be a child who will love Jesus. They may ask God to help the parents and his friends at church learn about Jesus' gospel.

Today, when you go home, ask your parents if you were blessed when you were little. They may have a picture of that special time. The next time a baby or child is blessed in the church, listen very carefully to the prayer. You may want to say a prayer in your heart for the child.

Review

Directions: Fill in the blanks below using the following Words.

Word Bank

- Circle of Fire
- Jesus
- Prayed
- Cried
- Children
- Disobeying God
- Angels

1. Who prayed for the Nephites? _____
2. Who did Jesus command the Nephites to bring to him? _____
3. Why was Jesus sad? _____
4. Jesus knelt and the ground and what did he do? _____
5. At the end of his prayer, Jesus felt very happy. He was so happy he _____.
6. After Jesus blessed the children, what did the people see coming down from heaven? _____
7. What was surrounding the angels? _____

Bonus Questions

1. Turn to 3 Nephi 8:13 and fill in the blank.
"Jesus _____ within himself."
2. In 3 Nephi 8:22 Jesus said, "Blessed are you because of your _____"
3. In the Bible find Matthew 19:13, 14
In the Bible, what did Jesus do to the children?

4. In what book of the Book of Mormon do we find today's story?

5. Jesus visited the Nephites in the land called _____
Read the introduction to 3 Nephi 5.

Memory Verse Activity:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil... III Nephi 8: 47

Discussion:

In today's story, Jesus prayed for the Nephites. He prayed for the children. Jesus is our example. He wants us to pray too. Some people like to pray so that people will see them and think they are good. They want to show off when they are praying. Jesus didn't pray to show off. He doesn't want us to pray that way either. He doesn't want us to pray to make our prayers long either.

Jesus does want us to pray often, not just on Sunday or Wednesday. He wants us to pray without our families and our church friends. We can pray to God when we are by ourselves or when we are around others. When we pray aloud, we must still remember that we are talking to God, not to other people. We should pray about what is in our hearts.

In today's story we heard that Jesus prayed such a beautiful prayer that no one could write it down. Earlier in his teaching he gave the people an example of how they should pray. That prayer was written down in the Book of Mormon. He gave an example in the Jerusalem too, before He came to visit the Nephites.

Let's look up both examples and compare them.

3 Nephi 5:101-106

Matthew 6:9-13

<p>Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.</p>

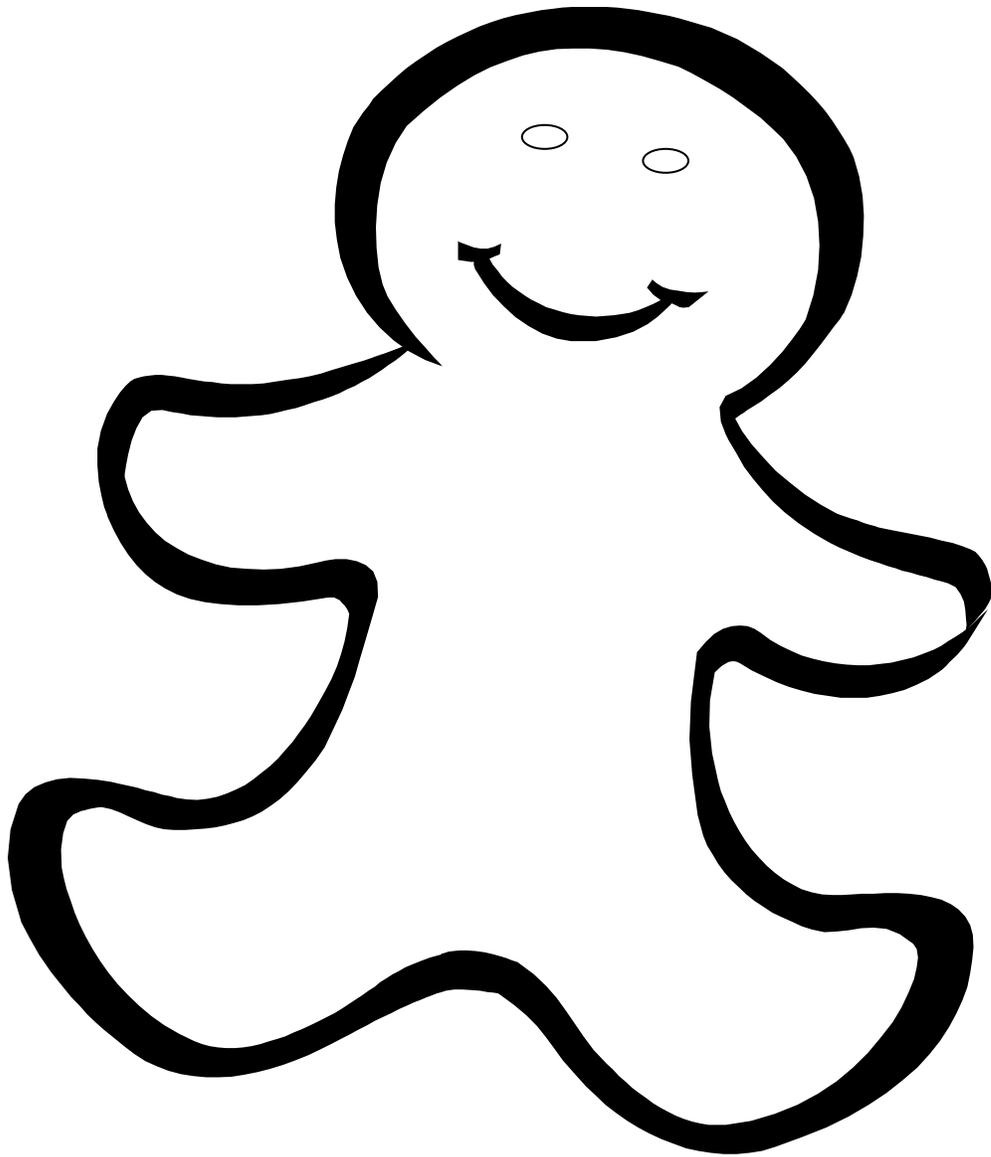
Have children use index cards to make the *Lord's prayer* cards to slip in the scriptures.

Craft: Paper chain children

- Construction paper
- Crayons/markers
- Scissors
- Stickers, etc. to decorate the children

Directions-

1. Fold construction paper like a fan.
2. Draw person shape below as a pattern connecting the arms on the folds.
3. Cut out and decorate each child.



Paper chain pattern