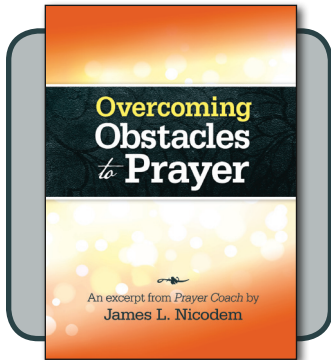


Additional Prayer Resources



Week of Prayer Poster & Bulletin



Overcoming Obstacles to Prayer



Week of Prayer Bookmark

Week of Prayer

Preteen/Children Outline

Ask God for Help

Activity: Chasing David

Seat the students in a circle. Give a small ball or beanbag to one student to begin passing around the circle. When the small ball is halfway around the circle, give a large ball or different colored beanbag to the student to start passing in the same direction. Explain that the small ball will represent David and the large ball/other beanbag represents King Saul. The goal is for “King Saul” to catch and touch “David.” However, “King Saul” can change directions going around the circle while “David” must continue in the same direction. The round ends when “King Saul” touches “David.” Play several rounds to see how fast “David” can be caught.

Ask: “Do you think it was fair that the large ball could change directions but the other one could not? Why?” (No, because it made the other ball easier to catch.) “How does it feel to be chased by someone?” (Scary, exciting, confusing.) “What do you know about King Saul and David from the Bible?” (Answers might include: Saul was the first king of Israel, David killed Goliath, David was a shepherd, David wrote many psalms, and Saul tried to kill David.)

Explain that today we will be talking about a time when David was being chased by King Saul. David prayed and God helped him. Through this story we see that we can tell God about all our needs. And we can trust Him to help us.

Prayer Brings Us Safety

Read 1 Samuel 18:5–9; 19:1–16; Psalm 19:1–16

Since these are long passages, and sometimes difficult to understand, you might explain it this way:

You probably remember the story of David and Goliath. David killed the giant and the Israelites praised him for it. At first, King Saul was pleased with David for what he had done. But later Saul became jealous of David because the people had made up a song that they sang as they danced in the streets:

“Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.”

Saul’s jealousy led him to decide to kill David. But Jonathan, Saul’s son, spoke up. He tried to change Saul’s mind by reminding him of how David had slain Goliath and won a great victory. That had made Saul very happy, so he decided he would not kill David.

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But then war broke out against the Philistines, and David went to battle. He fought bravely and won another victory. When David returned to Israel, he played the harp for Saul. Soon Saul became jealous again, and tried to kill David by throwing a spear at him. David escaped, but knew he was no longer safe.

Then Saul sent his men to David's house to kill him. David escaped by climbing out a window. During this time David wrote Psalm 59. In it, he asked God for protection from his enemies.

When you are afraid, it helps to tell God exactly what is scaring you. That's what David did, saying, "See how they lie in wait for me!" And David also praised God for saving him from death, saying, "I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love." God heard David's prayers and kept him safe.

Ask: "What kinds of things do you say to God when you pray?" (Many different answers are possible. Emphasize that we can tell God everything when we pray.)

Application: What Can We Say?

Sometimes we might wonder what to talk about when we pray. It can be hard to know what to say. We might be afraid of saying the wrong thing, or wonder what kinds of things God wants to hear. But when we look into the Bible, we see that God wants to hear all about the things we need, the things we're afraid of, and the things we're thankful for. Some examples include asking for help or protection, telling God how you feel when life seems unfair, thanking God for all the good things He does for us, asking God's help to do the things that please Him, asking forgiveness for sins and seeking help to change the parts of our lives that need changing, praying for people we know who are sick or needy, and asking God to help the missionaries around the world. The list is almost endless.

Ask: "How can you keep track of all the things you need to pray about, and stay faithful in talking to God about these things every day." (Encourage them to have a list of things to pray about and keep it in a place where they will see it and be reminded to pray. Emphasize that they can put anything on their list because God wants to hear all about them and the things that concern them. Also encourage them to have a special time set aside every day when they turn off the computer and the television, put away the cell phone and video game, and focus only on talking to God. During that time they can feel free to take every need, fear, and thought to Him. It's important for them to praise and thank God during that time as well.)

Closing: Talk to God

As you close in prayer, ask the students to think of a specific need, fear, or problem they are facing. Encourage them to share their needs with the group. Then take time for them to pray for one another about these needs. Close with a prayer of your own, then encourage them to keep praying about these needs in the coming days.