

WEEK 5: Jesus Prays for Us!

Big Idea: We can pray every day.

HANGOUT

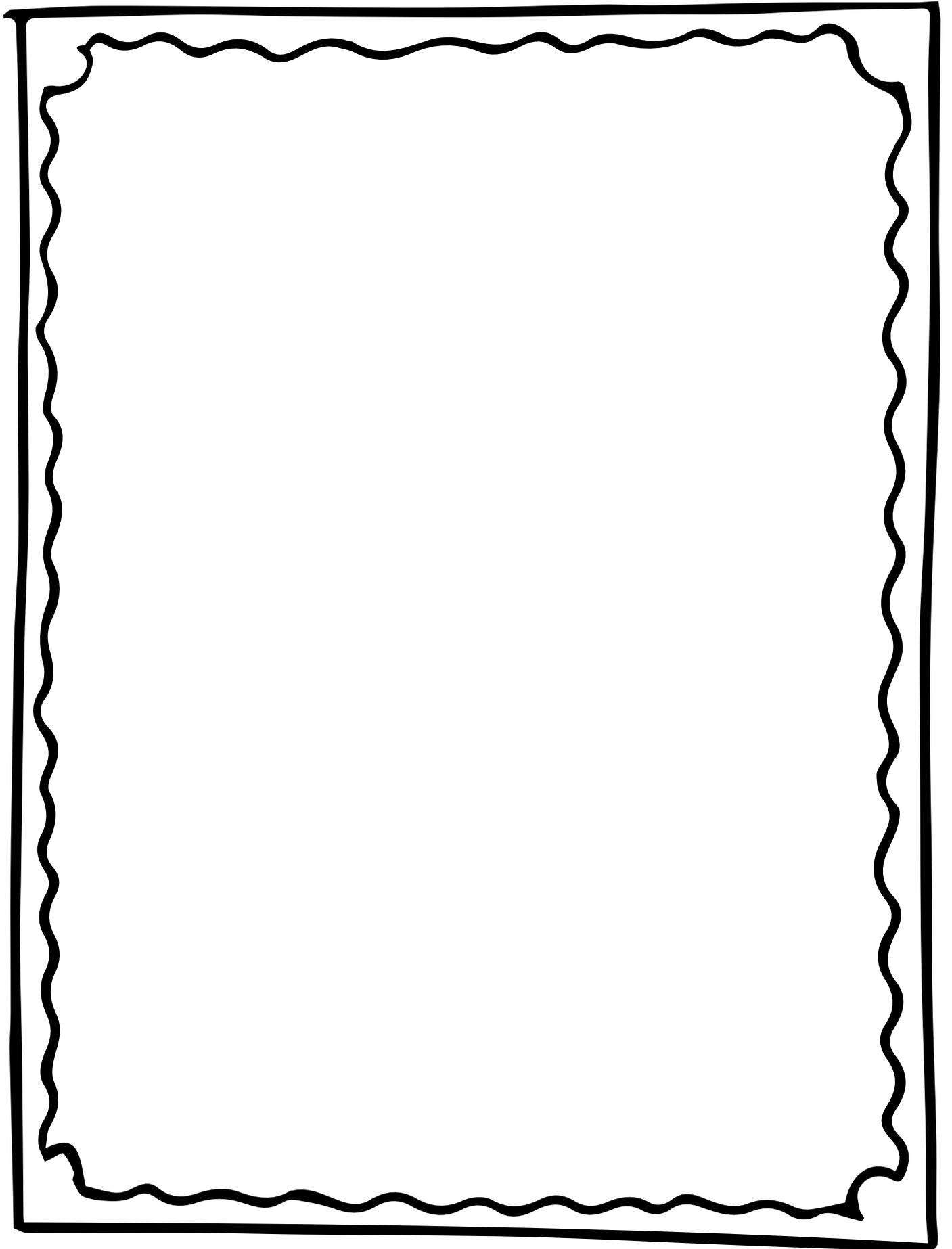
1. Play some upbeat praise music and lead everyone to dance. Let the children know that when the music stops, they should freeze and say, **"We can pray every day!"** Dance together for a while, then pause the music. Prompt everyone to freeze and say the Big Idea. Be sure to join in the fun with the children! They will follow your lead. After a few rounds, introduce some variations. For example, they could freeze with a silly face, freeze like a flat pancake on the floor, or freeze posed like their favourite animal. Choose a new variation for each round. Keep playing as long as there's interest.
2. Ask: When can we pray? (Every day!)

HEAR

3. Tell everyone that in today's story from the Bible, Jesus prays for us—long before we were ever born! Jesus knew us and loved us and prayed for us thousands of years ago. Encourage the children to listen carefully to find out how Jesus prayed.
4. Use a children's Bible to read about Jesus praying for us (from John 17:20-25).
5. Ask: Who is Jesus praying for? (everyone who will ever believe in him, including us)
6. Let the children know that Jesus prayed that everyone who loves him would have unity. Explain that unity is when everyone gets along and works together.
7. Tell the group that you're going to do something together that takes unity! Direct the children to sit cross-legged in a line so that everyone is sitting knee-to-knee with the person next to them. Guide them to lean gently to the right together, then lean to the left. Continue swaying back and forth until everyone is moving together. Emphasize that we can have unity together when we love Jesus. Congratulate the group on doing an awesome job!

HUDDLE

8. Guide the children to spread out. Demonstrate how to do a jumping jack. Lead everyone to do ten jumping jacks to burn some energy before praying. Count down out loud and show enthusiasm!
9. Gather everyone back together. Model how to sit in a prayer posture, with your eyes closed and hands folded. Invite the children to join you but make it clear that it's okay if they don't.
10. Pray, "Thank you, Jesus, for praying for us! It's amazing that you knew us, loved us, and prayed for us way before we were even born! Please teach us to pray for others, too. Amen!"



PRESCHOOL

Big Idea: We can pray every day.