

YEAR D | QUARTER 4

4

Prayer Warrior

Service
We reveal God's love by serving others.

POWER TEXT

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way" (1 Kings 8:23).

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Kings 8:22-53
- 2 Chronicles 5–7
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 2, pp. 35-50
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 146-151
- Student story on page 52 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that the Bible shows them how to pray not only for themselves but also for others.
- **Feel** that prayer is like opening their hearts to a friend.
- **Respond** by making a list of people they can pray for, and by praying for them.

POWERPOINT

We honor God when we pray for others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Solomon's prayer leads the people of Israel in worship. It begins by praising God for being a trustworthy God. Solomon thanks God for listening to His people's prayers and forgiving them. He asks God to help His people treat their neighbors fairly. He confesses their sins and asks God to teach them the right way to live. He thanks God for leading the people into service for others. Solomon's prayer can be a model for us.

This is a lesson about service.

This is a lesson about prayer as a form of worship. Solomon realizes not only what God has done for the Israelites, but the tolerance He has shown through Israel's past mistakes. Solomon makes a choice to serve God by leading his people in praise and worship. He does this through prayer. Just as Solomon opens his heart and soul to his Creator, so we, too, can come to our friend Jesus anytime with our praise, needs, or concerns. When we come to God in prayer, He enables us to serve Him and others.

Teacher Enrichment

"We are too indifferent in regard to one another. Too often we forget that our fellow laborers are in need of strength and cheer. Take care to assure them of your interest and sympathy. Help them by your prayers, and let them know that you do it" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 492).

How do I demonstrate my dependence on the Creator to the students in my class? How do my prayers for my students impact their lives? How will I become an intercessory tool in the lives of those around me?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?**

Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Prayer Counts* *B. Prayer Requests*	
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 47. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	option 1: Bible, paper, pencils option 2: prepared slips of paper, Bible costume
		Exploring the Bible	option 1: Bibles, paper, pencils option 2: Bibles OR photocopies of passage, markers
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Needing Encouragement*	white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Praying for You*	
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Prayer Counts

Choose one person to count aloud to 50 while the rest of the class calls out numbers to confuse the person counting. Repeat several times with different people counting.

Debriefing

Ask: **How easy or hard was it to concentrate on counting? How do you feel about all the distractions? How was this experience like trying to pray when you are surrounded by distractions?** (I am easily distracted by things around me; I lose my train of thought; I don't know what to pray for; I forget to pray for other people.) We need to be aware of God's presence when we pray to Him and to listen and watch for ways in which He answers our prayers. On the other hand, it is important to not only pray for ourselves.

Say: **Let's say together the power text, 1 Kings 8:23:**

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way" (1 Kings 8:23).

The Bible shows us it is important to pray for others. In fact:

We honor God when we pray for others.

B

Prayer Requests

Have students sit in a circle. Say: **I'm going to read some prayer requests. After each one, stand up if you think God would give the person praying what they asked for. Sit down if you think God would say no to the request.**

Read aloud:

1. **Please comfort my aunt; my uncle died.**
2. **Please give me a new wardrobe.**
3. **Please help me do my best on my science test tomorrow because I studied so hard for it.**
4. **Please forgive my sins.**
5. **Please help me get a good grade in math, although I never study for it.**
6. **Please give my dad the desire to come to church and get to know You.**
7. **Please help me be the greatest basketball player in my school.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Which requests would get an automatic yes?** (Those for things God has already promised, such as comfort, forgiveness) **Why do you think some would get an automatic no?** (They are self-centered or hurtful requests.) **How do you feel when God says no to your prayers? Why do you think He would say no?** (Not His will; not in our best interest; maybe we need to wait.) **What things would He always say yes to? How important do you feel it is to pray for others?**

Say: **Let's say together the power text, 1 Kings 8:23:**

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way" (1 Kings 8:23).

Remember:

We honor God when we pray for others.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Whisper a Prayer" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 101)
"Open Our Eyes" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 149)
"Blindman" (*Praise Time*, no. 2)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **There are many different ways to worship God. Praying for others is one way. Another way to worship is by offering our money to God for His work. When we bring our tithes and offerings to Sabbath School, it is an act of worship.**

Prayer

Have students stand in a circle. Encourage each person to pray a one-word prayer. It could be "Thanks," "Help," "Joy," or a person's name—God knows what's meant by the word. They may pray more than once, but no more than one word at a time. The one-word format reduces anxiety about praying aloud and helps participants focus on the thoughts and feelings they want to communicate to God. When appropriate, close with one word: "Amen!"

Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **How would you define prayer?** (Wait for answers.) Read Ellen White's definition of prayer:

"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. The eye of faith will discern God very near, and the suppliant may obtain precious evidence of the divine love and care for him [or her]. . . . The Lord reads the hearts of all, and 'the prayer of the upright is His delight.' [Proverbs 15:8.] He will not be slow to hear those who open their hearts to Him, not exalting self, but sincerely feeling their weakness and unworthiness" (*Gospel Workers*, p. 257).

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you pray?** (to communicate with God) **What are some things we can pray about?** (special guidance from the Lord, the safety and well-being of our loved ones, missionaries and their specific needs, forgiveness of our sins, those in authority, our gratitude for things God has given us, salvation for those who do not know Christ, healing for the sick, help with our spiritual needs, people we have trouble getting along with, the church and its believers) Ask: **What would life be like if we did not know God who listens to and answers prayer? How can prayer be a part of worship? How much of your prayers are for others?**

Say: **Remember:**

We honor God when we pray for others.

YOU NEED:

Option 1:
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Option 2:
- ☐ prepared slips of paper
- ☐ Bible costume

Experiencing the Story

Option 1: Give students paper and pencils. Ask them to keep track of how many times the words "hear" [13] and "heaven" or "heavens" [12] appear in Solomon's prayer. Bonus: How many times is the phrase "hear from heaven" repeated? [7]. Read Solomon's prayer aloud from 1 Kings 8:22-53.

Option 2: Divide Solomon's prayer into as many parts as you have student participants. Copy those sections onto individual pieces of paper, numbering them in order. Also provide a Bible costume, such as a robe or jacket. Give each student one of the sections of Solomon's prayer. Ask them to imagine what Solomon might have been thinking or feeling as he said those words. Following in order, give each student the opportunity to put on the costume and read the different sections of Solomon's prayer.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you think Solomon prayed the way he did? How did Solomon pray for the people of Israel?**

Say: **Let's say together the power text, 1 Kings 8:23:**

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way" (1 Kings 8:23).

Ask: **What can his prayer teach us about praying?**

Say: **Remember:**

We honor God when we pray for others.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

Option 1:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Option 2:
- ☐ Bibles OR photocopies of passage
- ☐ markers

Exploring the Bible

Option 1: Have volunteers each read aloud a paragraph of Jesus' prayer for His disciples, found in John 17. Ask: **What are some of the things Jesus prayed for in this prayer?** (for Himself, for His disciples, for all believers) **Who are the people that you pray for?**

Option 2: Have students look for the other ways besides "hear from heaven" that Solomon requested God to hear their prayers. (You may want to provide a photocopy of the passage for each student and give them pens or transparent markers to mark the following phrases as they're found): "give attention"; "hear the cry"; "may your eyes be open"; "hear the prayer"; "listen to them."

Say: **There were many ways Solomon expressed his desire that God hear his prayer and the prayers of his people, some of them very poetic. Now you have the opportunity to try writing a poem or a prayer in your own words in which you will tell God why you need Him in your life.** Let students share what they wrote if they wish. Ask: **How does praying for others help us?**

Say: **Let's repeat once again the power text, 1 Kings 8:23:**

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way" (1 Kings 8:23).

Remember,

We honor God when we pray for others.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Needing Encouragement

Have someone record responses for the following activity.

Ask: **Can you name some groups in our community who feel that life has not treated them fairly? What do you think could be done to help them?** (Pray for them, treat them with love and respect, serve fairly without discrimination, etc.) **In addition to prayer, what could we as a Sabbath School group do to help these individuals?** (Speak up for people who are treated unfairly, be a friend to them, give them help when they need it, etc.)

Say: **Think of someone you know who feels left out or has been treated unfairly. Write a letter or make a coupon promising your help and support through prayer.** Distribute paper and pens/pencils for this activity.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it easy or hard to think of people for whom you could pray? Are most of the requests for physical problems or spiritual ones? Are some prayers just for blessing and encouragement?** Say: **Remember:**

We honor God when we pray for others.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

Praying for You

Invite students to share their experiences if during the week they had used a prayer calendar.

Ask: **Who are the people for whom you prayed this week? Did you tell those individuals that you were praying for them? How many of you wrote a short note, called, or told one person on your calendar face-to-face that you are praying for them?**

Ask students to turn to a partner and share with one another their reasons for praising God as well as their prayer requests. Have them pray for one another.

We honor God when we pray for others.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Lord, thank You for the opportunity to come to You anytime, anywhere, through prayer. Please help us remember that You are a friend who is always eager to listen to us. Please bless our friends who don't yet know you as their personal Savior and use us to help them feel your love. Stay close to each member of our class and help us want to talk to You about everything in our lives. Thank You that we can worship You by praying for others. Amen.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Solomon witnesses to the queen of Sheba. Our words and actions should match.**

Notes

Student lesson

Prayer Warrior

Think of a big meeting at which lots of people from your area got together for a special event. It was just like that when Solomon called all the people of Israel together for the dedication of the new temple.

King Solomon stood in front of the magnificent temple he had built for God. This permanent temple was much larger and more magnificent than the tent tabernacle created while Moses led the people through the wilderness.

Seven years had passed since Solomon had commanded that work begin on this temple. Finally it was the day of official dedication. The Israelite people were gathered in expectation. Leaders and kings from other nations were also present, wanting to know more about famous King Solomon and his God.

The seventh month was always a good time for celebrations. The harvest was finished, and the time for new planting had not begun. It was time for the Feast of Tabernacles, seven days set aside for thanking God for the harvest. Now the people would also celebrate God's mercies by dedicating themselves and the new temple to Him.

A procession came into view. The ark of the covenant, which had been crafted by Bezalel for the original tabernacle in the wilderness, was being carried to take its place in this new temple. Every six steps the priests stopped and made sacrifices to God.

Finally the priests and singers had all taken their positions—Levites dressed in white linen and carrying cymbals and harps, 120 priests sounding trumpets.

Suddenly the cloud of God's presence filled the temple. Then King Solomon knelt on the five-foot-high (1.5-meter-high) platform he had prepared especially for this dedication around the altar of sacrifice in the temple courtyard. His voice could be heard by all the people as he addressed God in prayer.

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way" (1 Kings 8:23).

"O God, will You really dwell here on earth? The heavens and even the heaven of heavens cannot contain all Your glory! How much smaller and more insignificant is this house I've built for You! Please listen to our prayers. When Your people pray to You, hear us from heaven.

"If Israel sins, and its people are given to their enemies, but are sorry and ask forgiveness, please hear and forgive their sins. When there is no rain because of their sins, and they ask Your forgiveness, hear their prayer and send rain on their land.

"If there is famine, or locusts, or enemies taking the city, or even sickness, hear the prayers of Your people and heal them, so they will trust You and know You and walk in Your ways.

"There are strangers here in Israel, and many have come here to learn of You. Listen to their prayers, and help them know You and love You as Israel does today. Let them know that this house I built is called by Your name.

"If Your people go to war, and ask for Your help, listen to their prayers and strengthen them. When they are taken captive because of their sins and they seek You sincerely in prayer, hear their prayers and forgive and restore them to their lands.

"Lord, please turn Your eyes favorably toward Your servant and answer this prayer that I've spoken today in Your holy temple. Bless Your priests and Your people with the desire to worship You with happy hearts. Remember David Your servant, and don't turn away from me, Your anointed king over Your people" (see verses 27-61).

Suddenly, there was fire! It came down from heaven, and this holy fire consumed all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. Glory filled the temple. All of Israel bowed down before God.

Solomon had prayed for all the people, for Jews and foreign visitors alike. God had honored that prayer and made His presence seen, felt, and known.

There were sacrifices, there was music, there was singing and rejoicing. Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple left a deep impression on the hearts of the listeners. That day many decided to worship the God of Israel sincerely and with undivided hearts. Just as in the days of Solomon, our prayers for others are an important part of worshiping God. Our prayers for others reflect our faithfulness to the Creator whose love we share with His children.

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Kings 8:22-53
- 2 Chronicles 5–7
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 2, pp. 35-50
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 146-151
- Our Beliefs nos. 14, 11, 17

POWER TEXT

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way" (1 Kings 8:23).

POWER POINT

We honor God when we pray for others.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 33.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Kings 8:14–19 and this week's story, "Prayer Warrior."

REVIEW Review the power text, 1 Kings 8:23.

PRAY Ask God to meet a person's needs in a special way.

Monday

READ Read 1 Kings 8:23, 24.

LIST In your Bible study journal, list ways God has kept His promises in your life as well as your gratitude to Him.

CREATE Use the Prayer Calendar you received in Sabbath School or create a prayer calendar, listing at least a person for each day. Remember to pray for a person every day.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for the person on your prayer calendar for today. Ask God to reveal Himself to that person today.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Kings 8:27.

THINK If you were selected to be in charge of building a dwelling place for God, what would it be like?

DRAW Create a picture or a floor plan of your ideal place of worship for God.

LOOK Look for ways God is answering your prayers for others.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for the person on your prayer calendar for today. Don't forget to be specific.

Wednesday

READ Read Philippians 4:6.

DISCOVER If you could rate your life this week between 1 for "Totally Stressed Out" and 10 for "Completely Serene," what number would best represent it?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for the person on your prayer calendar, and also ask God to keep you completely at peace.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Peter 5:7.

THINK What does it mean to bring to God our anxiety?

REMEMBER Don't forget to let someone know you are praying for them.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for the person on your prayer calendar for today. In prayer, present to God the things that cause you anxiety, asking Him to help you overcome these feelings.

Friday

READ Read Romans 12:12.

CONNECT Contact a friend and ask them to become a prayer partner with you.

PLAN Set aside regular times each week when you can get together or call one another on the phone to pray together.

REPEAT Say the power text aloud by memory.

PRAY You have another chance today to pray for a person on your prayer calendar. Look for God's answer.