



CONNECTED

11-14yrs

Session 8:

I CAN... CHAT FOR OTHERS (INTERCESSION)



AIMS

- To understand prayer is a powerful weapon.
- To invite God to bring change.



I CAN... CHAT FOR OTHERS (INTERCESSION)



MEMORY VERSE

‘AND THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE HAVE TOWARD HIM, THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL HE HEARS US.’

1 JOHN 5:14 (ESV)



GAME 1 (10 mins)

Resource:

- One chair per person

Divide into teams if you have a large group (more than 10). Each group should form a circle of chairs. One person stands in the middle, the others sit on a chair. The aim is for everyone to move to their left without the person in the middle gaining a seat. Should the person in the middle gain a seat, anyone without a seat has to stand in the middle of the group and the game starts again.



CATCH UP (10 mins)

Refer to the teaching notes for guidance on how to run this time.



GOD SPOT (5 mins)

Have the young people talk about what they have seen God doing in their lives or the lives of others in the last week. They can also speak about things they are grateful for that have happened in their lives that week. (This is based on teaching from Session 6, Term 1 of Connected. If you haven't done this session then please read the teaching notes.)



INTRODUCTION (5-10 mins)

Show this clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BRdY0NR08g>

When things go wrong for others it can connect with our hearts so deeply that we want to do something about it. This track by Elle Goulding was a cry by Save the Children to help the children affected by the war in Syria. Elle's song is really powerful. Her hope is that people will actually show that they care. When we cry out to God about a problem we often don't realise how much of a difference it can make. Moses cried out to God and this is what happened.



BIBLE STORY

(5-10 mins)

Read Exodus 17:8-16 together, in an age appropriate Bible.

Suggested resource:

'The Action Bible' pg.150-152.

Afterwards discuss:

- What difference does praying make in this passage?
- What difference do Moses friends make?
- What could we learn about our prayers from this passage?



TALK

(5 mins)

Last term we thought about what it means to chat and catch with God. So we could be really real with God and tell him everything that was going on in our lives, whenever and wherever we wanted. Today I want us to think about what it means to chat to God to change a situation.

In today's passage, Moses spends an entire day praying. His prayer is so powerful it makes the difference between winning and losing the battle. Moses needs the help of his friends to keep going. The Bible says they helped by sitting him down on a stone and holding up his arms. They gave Moses the strength to keep on praying.

- Why do you think Moses's arms made a difference?
- Do you think it was important for the people fighting to know Moses was praying?

Praying like this involved commitment and sacrifice for Moses and his friends. It can't have been easy. This is a very visual reminder of the power of prayer. Moses, his friends and the entire nation can see that when Moses prays it saves lives, it results in victory. When Moses doesn't pray lives are lost and they start losing. I believe our prayers can make this much difference too. Moses was an ordinary human being; one with a close relationship with God. When he knew his nation needed help he went to God and he stayed talking to God, crying out to God till the problem got sorted.

To pray in the way Moses did is called intercession. It means to ask something of God for the benefit of someone else. We can learn a lot about how to intercede for others from this passage.

Firstly, chatting to God or even crying out because we care so much about the other person or other people is very powerful. In this story it saved lives, it can still do that today.

Secondly, we shouldn't give up till the problem is sorted. Moses took responsibility and kept praying. Intercessors don't give up praying until the battle they are fighting is won. For example, if someone you know is sick, keep praying till they are well again. Or if there is a problem at school keep praying till it is sorted; don't just pray once and walk away.

Thirdly, having friends pray with you can make all the difference. Without his friends, Moses would have stopped praying and the battle would have been lost. Chatting to God in a group can be really helpful - one prayer sparks another and another as ideas are shared. It can mean your prayers get deeper and deeper and things you might not have thought of on your own come to the surface.

Chatting to God for others is one of the most powerful things you can do. It literally has the power to save nations. Notice what happens at the end of the story when Moses's prayer is answered - he goes on to pray in thanks to God. Moses isn't alone; again and again in scripture people stop and thank God in prayer for what He has done. People who intercede well make a point of thanking and celebrating what God does as they see their prayers answered.



TESTIMONY (5 mins)

Have someone come and share something that they have interceded for over time and then seen change happen.



REFLECT AND SHARE (5 mins)

Ask how it felt to pray alone and how it felt to pray in a group. Did they feel either way had any benefits for them? Would they ask others to pray with them about something important in the future or would they choose to pray alone?



RESPONSE (5 mins)

Resources:

- A current newspaper (multiple copies of the same paper)

Take a look at these newspapers. As you look at the stories, ask God in your head to highlight one story. Then come together as a group.

Ask each young person to share the story they picked. Where people have picked the same story, group them together. There will be a few key stories that emerge. Ask the other young people to choose one of these groups to join. Explain we are going to try an experiment.

Firstly, ask everyone to pray in their heads about the story asking God to make a specific change to the situation.

Then explain we are going to see if it makes a difference to hear each other's prayers. Ask the groups to pray out loud together and to see if, as we said earlier, more prayers come to mind as they listen to others pray. (Encourage them to take a turn moving left to right. Often one thing that worries us about praying out loud is that we will speak when someone else is speaking: if we know it's our turn it takes this worry away.) Once they've gone round, if other ideas occur, encourage them to pray these into the mix.



ACTION (5 mins)

Spend some time thinking about an issue you know is affecting people around you, at school, in your town or in your country. Over this coming week commit to pray about it every day and then, at the end of the week, decide if you need to keep praying or see if the situation has changed.



GAME 2 (5-10 mins)

Resources:

- Spray bottle or small water pistol.

Hand the spray bottle or small water pistol to one young person; their job is to tag someone else by spraying them. They then become 'it' and have to tag the next person. Keep going for as long as you wish. If you have a large group then feel free to have more than one 'it'. If this is the case you'll need multiple spray bottles or water pistols.



RESOURCES

Game 1:

- One chair per person

Introduction:

- Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BRdY0NR08g>

Bible story:

- Suggested resource: 'The Action Bible' pg.150-152

Response:

- A current newspaper (multiple copies of the same paper)

Game 2:

- Spray bottle or small water pistol

