



# /5/ FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

## POWERFUL PRAYER

### FUN ACTIVITY

#### ASK - SEEK - KNOCK



Play just like Rock, Paper, Scissors. Ask trumps Knock, Seek trumps Ask, Knock trumps Seek. Hand signals are:

- Ask is prayer hands (two hands together)
- Seek is binoculars (two hands each a circle over eyes).
- Knock is a hand knocking (hand in fist in the air knocking).

Play a few round until everyone gets the flow of it. Now see who can beat everyone. The winner is the best out of three.

### HIDE 'N SEEK TOYS

Hide 10 toys around the house and yard. Time the children to see how long it takes to find them all. Go again and see if they can beat their time, or this time maybe they can hide the toys for you to find.

Discuss how sometimes you need to keep looking, and keep praying until you see God come through.

### BIBLE TIME

#### SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 1, Philippians 4:6-7, and Ephesians 6:19, "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."

#### THEME

The true power of prayer is that God is listening, and He cares about every part of our lives.

#### INTRO

Have you ever wanted something so bad that you were almost willing to do anything to get it? Hannah was a woman who really wanted to have a child, and the only thing she knew to do was pray. Every year she would go with her husband to the temple (like church) to worship and thank God. She would always cry out to God praying for a child, year in, year out, she kept praying.

### /1/ PRAY LIKE CRAZY

#### 1 SAMUEL 1:9-11

Hannah never stopped praying for a child. She promised God that if He were to give her a son, she would give him to the Lord. One day, she was praying with so much passion, that the Priest Eli thought that she might be a little crazy. He even told her off. Hannah was not put off by this, and she stood her ground. Is there anything you're passionate about praying for, that you would risk looking a little crazy for? Prayer doesn't always have to look and sound polished and graceful. Prayer should be raw and real, as we express our true feelings, needs and thoughts to God. It is important that we let ourselves be more vulnerable before God, because He knows us better than anyone. It's ok if we need to cry or even laugh when we pray. Hannah had a deep desire that she wanted God to fill, is there anything you would like God to fulfil in your life?

### /2/ PRAY GIVING IT ALL TO GOD

#### 1 SAMUEL 1:12-18

When the Priest Eli realised that Hannah was just very troubled and really wanted God to answer her, he responded encouragingly and blessed her. She went away that day feeling better about the situation. Hannah had done all she could, and now she just had to trust God with the rest. It is so important that when we pray we give it all to God. We need to trust Him to do what He thinks is best, and not keep worrying about it. Prayer is the way to express all our feelings to God, but it is also a conversation and we need to leave room for God to answer, and although he doesn't always answer straight away he will always, always answer us. It is also good to pray with someone else who can keep encouraging you while you wait for God to answer, just like Eli did for Hannah. Who can you pray with?

### /3/ PRAY WITH THANKSGIVING

#### 1 SAMUEL 1:26-28

The next day Hannah and her husband woke up and worshipped God, thanking God, even though they didn't have a child yet. When we thank God it reminds us that God is able and that we do have many things that we can be grateful for already. Being thankful to God really encourages us and helps us to keep trusting in Him. What are some things you are thankful for? God did not forget Hannah, and He did give her a child. Hannah named this child "Samuel", which means "Heard by God". God heard Hannah's prayer, and He gave her a son who would grow up to be one of the most influential leaders and prophets in Bible history. Hannah did as she promised and dedicated Samuel to serve in God's house.

#### APPLICATION

##### Being Prayerful In Every Season For Everyone

Read Philippians 4:6-7, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." God is always listening and He really cares about the things we care about, He cares about everything in your life! You matter to Him, and He wants to be involved in every part of your life!

Read Ephesians 6:19. The apostle Paul encourages us to pray all the time, for everything. To stay prayerful for others and to not give up on praying for our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world. Sometimes we may treat prayer like a "Santa Wish List", and give God all our requests, but we don't really consider other people who may be in need. It is really important as Christians that we make it a priority to pray for others. There are Christians all over the world that really need your prayer! Thinking and praying for others also helps us not to worry as much about ourselves, so it is really healthy to make this apart of your daily prayer life.

#### PRAY

What part of this devotional has challenged you the most? How often do you prayer? What are some prayer needs that you have as a family? What pray needs do you think other Christians around the world might have at this time? Pray together as a family.