

BIG IDEA

Take another step —
pray for others.

BIBLE

Peter and John at the Beautiful Gate:
Acts 3; John 17:6–19

LARGE GROUP TIME

Greetings, earthlings! Welcome back to another interstellar Bible-learning adventure! Today we will take another step in our journey with Jesus and see how we can make an impact by praying for others.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Mission Control

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the [printables](#) provided. Have two kids come to the front and sit back-to-back. One student has one of the images from the printable and the other has colored pencils and paper. The kid with the image must describe it in as much detail as possible, without directly saying what it is. The second kid must draw the object as best they can, based on the communication of the student with the object. Repeat with new pairs.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Rather than drawing freehand, provide [pattern tiles and cards](#). Have one kid describe one of the patterns while the other tries to arrange the tiles in the correct formation.
- One major part of space exploration is mission control. Mission Control is the team that stays on the ground and communicates to astronauts in space. They guide astronauts to help them complete their mission and navigate any problems the astronauts may encounter.
- Today we are going to play a game that will show us the importance of communication, especially when we can't see each other.

ACTIVITY | Rocket, Comet, Alien

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids roam around the room pretending to be aliens by putting their index fingers on their heads and wiggling them around like antennae. Once they meet another alien, they challenge each other to a game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors." The person who wins levels up to "Comet" and will now walk around the room with one fist in the air like they are flying (the person who loses stays an alien). Kids continue to challenge anyone, regardless of level. After "Comet," the next level up is "Rocket," and they indicate this by putting their hands together like prayer hands over their heads. Once a player hits the "Rocket" level, they are locked, even if they lose again. Play until everyone achieves "Rocket" status.
- Now that you're all rocket stars (see what I did there?) keep your hands together, but bring them down from above your head. Hmm, that looks a lot like prayer hands . . . and that's exactly what we're going to talk about today — prayer!

QUESTION | “What’s in a space station?”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids get into groups of three or four and list five things they absolutely need to live in space. Then gather the groups together and make a tally of the five most in-demand items.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have preteens pair up and come up with a list of ten must-have items for space. Have pairs take turns reading off the items and any other pair who has the same item that’s read aloud must cross it out. The pair with the most amount of unique items wins.*
- The International Space Station is where astronauts go to live and learn more about space. Life on the space station is different than life on Earth because there’s no gravity there. For example, you have to sleep strapped into a wall and there are bars on the toilets so you don’t float away!
- **What are your must-have items if you had to live out in space?**
- If you ran out of supplies or you needed something that wasn’t on the space station, you could call out to the ground crew but help won’t arrive for a while, because space travel takes time.
- **If you were on the space station, who else could you call out to?** Yes, God! God hears our prayers, even from outer space. In today’s Bible story, we’ll see just how powerful prayer can be!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Acts 3 (Peter and John at the Beautiful Gate)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the Bible passage (or parts of it), then share the talking points below. You may also consider dressing up as an astronaut each week as a storyteller in space!*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Be mindful of how you tell this week’s Bible story, to both disabled and non-disabled kids. Focus on the healing the man received in terms of how being able to walk gave him a place in a society that excluded him. Have kids move away from language describing disabilities as something to be “cured.”*
- Hey, space explorers! I’m so glad you can join me today as we learn about true stories from the Bible that are sometimes even more unbelievable than the things we’ve learned about outer space! It’s time to turn from stargazing to zooming into Scripture.
- **Let’s read Acts 3.**
- By the time today’s Bible story occurs, Jesus had already gone up to heaven and he gave his disciples some instructions – **does anyone remember what that they were?** Yes, to go out into all the world and tell everyone the good news of Jesus! So they did just that.
- Peter and John were just two of the people who obeyed Jesus’ command. When they came across someone who needed their help, they realized they didn’t have money to give him, but they knew there was something else the man wanted that they could provide. They had come to the temple at the traditional time of prayer, so Peter said a simple prayer to God in Jesus’ name so that this man could walk. And he did! He didn’t just walk . . . he jumped and praised God.
- The people who saw what had happened were amazed that such a thing could happen. Peter reminded everyone that this should’ve come as no surprise – just as God did amazing things through Jesus, they now had the power by the Holy Spirit to be used by God, too!
- Prayer is simply talking to God. That’s what Peter and John did in this Bible story. They didn’t have to use fancy words or make it super long. Because they believed God was loving and all-powerful, they were able to take this next step of asking God to do something they couldn’t do on their own! And what seemed like one small step led to a giant leap of joy for the man who was healed and everyone who saw it happen!

BIG IDEA | Take another step — pray for others.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Project the [printable](#) provided and invite kids to take turns using a [telescope](#) to locate the Big Idea. You can also zoom into the image to show kids where it is. Alternatively, print a copy for each kid or pair of kids and have them circle it when they locate it.
- It looks very small but this is a very Big Idea to take back to Earth with us: Take another step — pray for others.

VIDEO | “Jumping From Space”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a video like [this one](#) (if you’re short on time, show until 2:20) of Felix Baumgartner’s space dive. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** For kids who might feel anxious or scared by watching this video, consider showing a video or telling the story of how [animals were sent to space](#). You can talk about how scientists were probably praying and hoping they would all return safely so they could begin sending humans into space.
- Felix is a skydiver and base jumper. That usually means jumping out of an airplane or a really tall building but this time, he jumped from space!
- As he traveled back to Earth, he started to go so fast that he spun out of control. His friends and family were watching closely as he pulled through that rough patch and regained control.
- When loved ones go through tough times, it seems like all we can do is just watch and hope for the best. I’m sure that’s what Peter and John thought at first when they had no money to help the man at the temple gate. But just like they realized right away, there is something we can do. We can pray. You can pray silently, out loud, by yourself, or with a group. Talking to God on behalf of others is a way we can show we care and trust God to show up! Any time you can, **take another step — pray for others.**

ACTIVITY | Where I Live, Learn, And Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up three separate areas labeled, “Live,” “Learn” and “Play.” At each station, have kids think about at least one person they can pray for and say a quick prayer for them. You might want to have leaders at each station to guide them. Invite kids to rotate from station to station.
- **Name someone you see where you live.**
 - Is it a family member, neighbor, or delivery person?
 - **What is one thing you can pray for on their behalf?**
- **Name someone you see where you learn.**
 - Is it a classmate, instructor, or even someone you don’t get along with so much?
 - **What is one thing you can pray for on their behalf?**
- **Name someone you see where you play.**
 - Is it a coach, a friend, or even someone you play with at the park?
 - **What is one thing you can pray for on their behalf?**
- No matter where you are in the galaxy, there is always someone who could use your prayer. So instead of backing away from these opportunities, take a step forward. **Take another step — pray for others.**

SCRIPTURE | John 17:6–19

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage (or parts of it) together.
- When Jesus was here on Earth, he spent a lot of time in prayer. Moments before he was about to be arrested and sentenced to die on the cross, he prayed — not for himself — but for his friends. He prayed for them to be safe. He knew that the road ahead of them would be challenging, so he asked God to watch

over them.

- **Did you know that Jesus still prays for us?** The Bible tells us that Jesus talks to God on our behalf all the time. Because of what Jesus has done for us by saving us from sin, we are able to pray directly to God and be confident that God hears us!
- In addition to praying to God about what's going on in our lives, we can take the time to pray for other people, too, as Jesus did. Prayer connects us to God and the people we are praying for.
- **Take another step – pray for others.**

VIDEO | One Small Step, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Press Play](#).

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Gravity With God

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play ambient music ([like this](#)) as kids reflect, but make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) Have kids pray for people in their lives for about one to two minutes. Set a timer to go off every twenty seconds. Every time the timer goes off, have kids pray for a different person.
- Remember, gravity is what keeps us grounded here on Earth – without it, we would all float away in outer space forever. Prayer keeps us grounded in God, by connecting us to God. When we pray for others, it connects them to God and to us, too.
- **How do you usually pray for people?** It might go something like this: “Dear God, please bless so-and-so so that they may be healthy and happy.” That is not a bad prayer at all. But the better you know someone, you can get specific about what you can pray for.
 - Do you have an aunt who is struggling with remembering things? Pray for God to help her.
 - Do you have a neighbor who is lonely because their family is far away? Pray for God to surround them with love.
 - Do you notice someone crying on a park bench? Pray for God to comfort them.
- **Who will you pray for? What will you pray for?**
- Let's make this a regular practice in our lives and pray for someone in our lives for a minute or so. When a timer goes off, select another person to pray for. Pray for what you need, of course. But then, **take another step – pray for others.**

RESPONSE | Mission Log

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Distribute the mission log you used last week. Have kids respond to this week's prompts with words or pictures. Feel free to pass out fun stickers once they complete their log.
- Every astronaut logs their activity while on a space mission. That way, they can look back and learn from the things they experienced. As we take a new step every week in our faith mission, we can log what we are learning, too!
- When we believe in Jesus, the way we keep up our faith life is to pray. We can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything. We can also pray for others.
- Let's add a new entry to our mission log. Write or draw things that you do every day. **Where in your daily schedule will you set aside time to pray to God?**
- In your newly designated prayer times, don't forget to **take another step – pray for others.**

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

- **“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Recite the verse a few times together. Then, have kids sit in a circle and give one kid a ball. They say the first word of the memory verse and then roll or toss it to someone across from them in the circle to say the next word. Keep going until the memory verse is complete.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Split the group into two teams. Have one team on the inside of a circle, and the other team on the outside. Have the outer team pass a foam ball across the circle overhead while saying one word of the memory verse each time the ball changes hands. The player saying the last word has to “spike” the ball into the circle while the inner team tries to avoid getting hit by the ball. If anyone gets hit, the teams switch places.

PRAYER

- God, thank you for listening to us every time we pray. Help us to see people where we live, learn, and play who may need help that only you can give. Give us the opportunity to pray for people and watch you do amazing things! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **Why were Peter and John going to the temple?** *To pray.*
 - **What did Peter and John do for the man at the temple gate?** *They called on the name of Jesus so that he could walk.*
 - **Read Acts 3:16. How was the man able to walk?** *By faith in the name of Jesus.*
 - **Read John 17:15. What did Jesus pray for?** *That God would protect his disciples.*
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **Why do you think we should pray for others?**
 - **Designate a time every day that you can set aside to pray for someone else. When would that be?**
 - **Name some things you might want to pray about on behalf of others (family, friends, teachers).**

ACTIVITY | Space Slime

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Follow instructions ([like these](#)) to have kids make their own space slime. You may want to add space-themed charms to mix in. Once they are finished, have them mold the slime in their hands as they pair up with a friend and pray for each other. You can also purchase ready-made slime, dough, or squishies to pass out. Provide ziplock bags for kids to store the slime to take home.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** In the vein of praying for and helping others this week, recruit your preteens for various activities this week. They could help run games, tell the Bible story, or even assist younger kids in making slime.
- God created the heavens, the Earth, the planets, and all the galaxies out of nothing! Yet this awesome, powerful, and creative God listens to us when we pray. As you look at this miniature galaxy in your hands, remember that you can talk to God about everything. Then look around you and **take another step – pray for others**, too!