



Jesus Depends On God



THE MISSION AIM

To discover Christ's divine and human nature by exploring His prayer life.



KEY VERSE

Luke 5:16: "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Articles from newspapers, magazines, etc. from that week (optional)

Directions

Follow up from last week's lesson: Take some time to talk about any new miracles that recruits have heard of, witnessed, etc. They could be from the news or a personal example. Simply use this as a sharing time. You may wish to come with a couple ideas of your own, in case recruits don't have anything to share.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 2 – Who Is This Jesus? Episode 5: Jesus Depends on God"

Play "Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 5 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have WITJ-Episode_5-Jesus_Depends_On_God.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Jesus and Prayer Brainstorm Page (see attachment page 7)
- Jesus and Prayer Teacher Reference Page (see attachment page 8)
- Chart Paper
- Bibles
- Markers



Mission Assignment

SAY: Well recruits we've got our first mission for today. Let's read it together (reading mission card from satellite uplink). "Your mission is to discover the prayer habits of Jesus. Using the Scriptures, research the Who, What, Where and When of Jesus' prayer life. Find the "big ideas" and report back!"

Say: It sounds like Aiden isn't the only one who struggles with praying. A lot of the team seem to agree that it can be tough to do sometimes. What are some of the reasons that Aiden said he struggles with prayer? (*No time, not knowing where to do it, when to do it, what to say, mostly for "old" people.*) If you had to choose one reason why you find praying hard, what would it be? (Give time to share thoughts.)

Say: Most of us find it hard to pray for many different reasons, but as the commander mentioned to the team, prayer **MUST** be important if Jesus m time to do it! Jesus made time to pray so that he would have a closeness with God the Father. If we look closely at the time in the Bible when he prayed we will discover how important his prayer life was to helping him complete his mission on earth.

SAY: Speaking of missions, our first mission is to take a closer look at how Jesus prayed in order to help Aiden and us learn how to pray.

Do: Give small groups a copy of the Jesus and Prayer Brainstorm page. Have them look them up the Bible verse and add to the brainstorm.

Say: Excellent Brainstorming, team! Let's take a look at what we discovered and create one big brainstorm to send back to the squad.

Do: Go through the Who, What, Where and When of Jesus' prayer life and create one brainstorm on chart paper with the key ideas.

NOTE: If you did this as a group already, you can skip this part!

Say: Nice job! Let's send the research back to headquarters.



Squad Leader, if you only have a couple of recruits, you may choose to do this all together on a big piece of chart paper.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 5 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.





Mission #2



Supplies Needed

- Bibles
- Jesus' Prayer Life Cards - Scripture reference cards and matching Prayer Results (One per set of partners. See attachment page 9.)
- One cup for each recruit
- Two straws for each recruit. Divide the straws into two groups. Straws in the first group should have a diagonal slit cut into them so that they will not work. Second group of straws should be left as they are.
- Water
- Optional: Garden hose and outside water tap



NOTE Squad leader, if you are able to do this part of the lesson outdoors, use a garden hose and tap. Kink the garden hose and ask a recruit to turn on the water and spray water. It won't work with a kink in it. Liken the water to God, the hose to ourselves and the kink to sin, poor prayer life or anything else that keeps us from being connected to God.



Mission Assignment

Say: What a great idea Simon had! What parts of Simon's "man-cave" remind you of the way that Jesus prayed? (*Private, only for him, quiet, etc.*)

Say: What a perfect place for Simon to be able to talk AND listen to God. Kate made a good point when she mentioned that Simon's time alone, with his music, in his "spot" is simply his way of praying. Praying doesn't have to be something that happens out loud. There is no one way to pray! The important thing is putting aside the business around you and focusing on what God is trying to share with you. When you do that, wonderful things can happen.

SAY: Let's have a countdown to our next mission, 3-2-1! (Reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits, we now know how Jesus prayed, but your next mission is to discover how Jesus' prayer life helped him to be in tune with God."

Say: Before we start out mission let's try a little experiment. I've brought a cup of water for each of you. I'd like you take a sip of your water using the straw in the cup.

Do: Have each recruit take a cup of water and a straw. Give them a chance to drink. They should have trouble getting any water or should not be able to drink the water.

Say: How's your water? Was it refreshing? What? You couldn't drink it because there is something wrong with your straw? That's right you have broken straws. I want you to think of the water in your cup as God, the straw as you and the hole in your straw as sin or a poor prayer life or anything else that might get in the way of you being connected with God.

Say: When we have a broken connection with God we don't allow God's will or power to flow through us. Jesus didn't have this problem with his prayer life.

Say: I think the best way for us to find out how Jesus' prayer life helped him be in tune with God is to turn back to our Bibles. With a partner, you are going to be given a Scripture passage to read and then I want you and your partner to take off the bulletin board (or wall) the matching prayer result for Jesus.



Do: Divide your recruits into partners and give each group a Bible passage to look up. Be sure to have the prayer results taped on the bulletin board for all to see. When all the matches have been made review their answers as below:

John 12:49-50	Jesus knows what to say.
John 14:9-10	Jesus knows what to say, and God the Father and Jesus, the Son, are as one.
John 6:38	Jesus knows the Father's will.
John 5:19-20	Jesus knows what to do.
John 15:10	Jesus keeps His Father's commands and remains in a loving relationship with Him.



Squad Leader, if you have a smaller squad, feel free to do this activity as a group.

Say: Let's try taking another drink from our cup, but this time I've got new straws for you to use.

Do: Give each recruit a new straw and have them take another drink of water.

Say: How was your drink? Were you able to have a drink? Yes, because this time your connection to the water wasn't broken this time. Jesus' prayer life shows us how he was connected or in tune with God, His heavenly Father. He was able to know God and to do what God wanted because of his time talking to His Father. If we want to live for God and do His will, we need to be connected to God and allow him to flow through us as well. Okay, take one last sip of your water.

Do: Allow recruits one more sip and then collect their cups and straws.

SAY: Great team work recruits! Jesus' prayer life helped him to be connected with God so that he would know what to say and do. It allowed Jesus to demonstrate God's power. Jesus was so in tune with God that God's power was able to flow through him and He could do amazing things for God. God's power in us gives us the power to love like He does, and not just to do "amazing" things.

SAY: Let's get back to the Recon Team now.



Squad Leader, if you are using a garden hose, remove the kink and have the recruit try to spray again.



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 5 (3/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.





Field Mission Project



Supplies Needed

- Notebooks (one per recruit) - bought or created
- Writing and colouring tools
- Copies of the Prayer Journal When, Where, What page (to attach at front of notebook and see attachment page 10)

Mission Project

Say: Well, the Recon Team has certainly given us a lot to think about. When I was younger, I always thought there was one specific way to pray to God. But, now I see there are many different ways to talk to God.

SAY: Let's check out our final mission for today. (Reading mission card from satellite uplink)
"Your final mission is to look personally at when you can pray, where you can pray and what you can pray about. Create a prayer plan for this week and design a prayer journal that you can use to help you with prayer. Your squad leader has all the tools you need for the job. God bless!"

SAY: Let's think about some of the ways we might choose to pray before we make our prayer journal. Thinking about Jesus as our example of prayer, where could you pray? (*Somewhere quiet and private- bedroom, secret place, with my ipod on, wherever I am by closing my eyes for privacy, etc.*)

SAY: When could you pray? (At a time when you can truly listen- in the quiet of the morning, before you go to bed, during a recess break, etc. Whatever the answer, the idea is that it needs to be at a time when you can quiet your heart to hear what God wants and pray for people.)

SAY: What could you pray about? (*Friends, family, yourself, worries, things you want to celebrate, questions, etc.*)

Do: Give each recruit a journal and share the pens or markers. Have recruits attach the When, Where, What page to the inside of their prayer journal and add some of the ideas from your discussion time. Then, allow them time to decorate their prayer journal cover. They may want to start adding specific things that they would like to pray for in their journal.



You may choose to jot these ideas down or simply talk them out. Be aware that ideas will vary, depending on your recruits.





Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 5 (4/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



Supplies Needed

- None

Directions

Say: For our prayer huddle today, we are going to use our when, where and what ideas and Jesus' example to help us pray. Remember that Jesus went somewhere quiet, chosen by Himself, where He could quiet His heart and listen to God. I want you to do the same thing. Each of us is going to find what works for us.

SAY: Choose a place where you like to pray and pray about what you want. Your prayer might be out loud or be in your head. It might simply be a time to concentrate on listening to God. Each one of us will have different needs, so we might not all be finished at the same time and that's okay! When you are done, come back to see me.

Do: Let recruits spread out in your room to pray on their own. Allow those who finish praying first to continue to decorate their prayer journal. When all have finished praying, gather together as a group one more time.

Say: Excellent job today, recruits! We've discovered that Jesus valued his time in prayer by spending time alone with God. We also know that his prayer times helped him to stay connected with God. Now that you have a better idea of where you want to pray, when you want to pray and what you want to talk to God about, you will hopefully feel closer to God! Make sure that you find a good spot for your new prayer journal. Record what you are praying about and don't forget to add answers to prayer when you see them. Tracking those answers will encourage you to keep on praying!

NOTES



Jesus and Prayer

Use the following Scripture verses to learn about Jesus and prayer.

Scripture Verses	Who is Jesus with?	Where did Jesus pray?	When did Jesus pray?	What did Jesus pray for?
Luke 5:16				
Luke 11:1-4				
Mark 1:35				
John 17				
Hebrews 5:7				

Jesus and Prayer - Teacher Reference

Use the following Scripture verses to learn about Jesus and prayer.

Luke 5:16: But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Who: By himself

Where: A quiet place

Luke 11:1-4: One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." ²He said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

Who: himself and with friends

Where: A certain place

What: The Lord's Prayer, God's glory, daily needs, forgiveness of sin, deliverance from sin

Mark 1:35: Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Who: By himself

Where: Private place

When: Early in the morning (a quiet time of his day)

John 17: Rather long - look it up! :)

What: Prayed for his glory, prayed for his friends, prayed for protection, prayed for others he didn't know as well...

Hebrews 5:7: During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

What: Prayed for himself

Jesus' Prayer Life

Scripture Reference	Prayer Result for Jesus
John 12:49-50	Jesus knows what to say
John 14:9-10	Jesus knows what to say, and God and Jesus are as one
John 6:38	Jesus knows God's will
John 5:19-20	Jesus knows what to do
John 15:10	Jesus keeps God's commands and remains in His love

Prayer Journal

When to pray:

Where to pray (my prayer spot):

What to pray (when stuck for ideas):

Prayer Journal

When to pray:

Where to pray (my prayer spot):

What to pray (when stuck for ideas):

Prayer Journal

When to pray:

Where to pray (my prayer spot):

What to pray (when stuck for ideas):

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When to pray:

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