

“Tipping Point” - LESSON 1

“PRAY”

Main Focus:

We must pray for missionaries!



Power Verse:

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

- James 5:16b



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Pray For Missionaries!”

LEADER'S INFO

Prayer is one of the most powerful tools God has given His children. But kids may feel like their prayers are too small, too simple, or not important enough for God to hear. The Bible makes it clear: every prayer matters. God listens to His children, and He responds in His perfect timing.

In this lesson, the children will learn that prayer is not just “something nice to do” before bed or meals. It is a vital part of God’s plan to change the world. Just like weights being added to a tipping scale, every single prayer tips things more and more toward God’s will being accomplished. We never know which prayer will be the “tipping point” that brings about a miracle.

Through the story of Peter in prison, the kids will discover that their prayers make a difference. When they pray with faith, God moves!



“The Spark” Intro Video

“What’s A Tipping Point?”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Terry Yaki teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Penny Worth”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Who Prayed What?”



Bible Story

“Peter In Prison”



Power Verse Video

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

- James 5:16b



Call To Action

“PRAY”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must pray for missionaries!



Power Verse:

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

- James 5:16b



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Pray For Missionaries!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Lesson 1 - Whatchagaddaknow Teaching” Video

- “Lesson 1 - Whatchagaddaknow Trigger” Video

Character Skit

- “Penny Worth” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video

- “Who Prayed What?” Graphics

Bible Story

- “Lesson 1 - Bible Story” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 - Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Lesson 1 - Call To Action” Graphics

- A Pair Of Walkie-Talkies

- An Old-School Tipping Weight Scale

- Weights To Place On The Scale

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video

- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Pictures Print Piece

- Wooden Blocks (or Jenga-style game)

- James 5:16b Print Piece

- Pencils, Markers, Or Crayons

- Bible

“The Spark” Intro Video

“What’s A Tipping Point?”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Terry Yaki teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”

Character Skit

“Penny Worth”

Offering Time

Game Time!

“Who Prayed What?”

Bible Story

“Peter In Prison”

Power Verse Video

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

- James 5:16b

Call To Action

“PRAY”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a brand-new series called “The Tipping Point.” It’s all about how the little things we do for God can add up to make a BIG difference in the world.

Have you ever had the thought, “My little prayer won’t make a difference.” Or maybe you’ve thought, “Does it really matter if I pray. I’m just one person.” Be honest. Have any of you ever had that thought? *(allow children to respond)* That’s certainly understandable. With so many people in the world, it’s easy for us to think, “I’m just little ol’ me. How could what I do make that big of a difference?”

In this series, we are going to learn that every prayer you pray, every offering you give, and every time you tell someone about Jesus - it all matters! You never know when the very next thing you do could be the tipping point where God does something amazing!

To help you understand this concept a little bit more...I want you to check out this video.

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: Wow! That was pretty cool, wasn’t it? Every little thing we do can be like adding another weight to God’s side of the scale. It might not look like much at first, but God is at work behind the scenes.

In this series, we’re going to discover three powerful ways that YOU can help tip the scale toward God’s plan: PRAY, GIVE, and GO. Today, we’re starting with PRAY. You’re going to learn that your prayers are powerful, and God hears every single one of them.

We’ll learn all about that today. But right now, it’s time to find out “Whatchagaddaknow!”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Penny Worth” *(A lively, optimistic, and quirky character whose personality revolves around the idea that little things make a big difference. She’s the personification of the phrase “small but mighty” and loves collecting small items.)*

Penny: *(Enters excitedly)* Hiya, friends! I’m Penny Worth, and I collect little things that pack a BIG punch! *(Digging in her backpack)* I know it’s in here somewhere...

Leader: *(Smiling)* Welcome, Penny Worth! Whatcha got there?

Penny: *(Pulls a penny out of her backpack)* Aha! Do you know what this is?

Leader: Uhhh... A penny?

Penny: Right! It’s nothing much by itself, BUT if you put it with 99 more, what do you get? *(Pulls out a bag of pennies)* You get a whole dollar! Those little things stack up!

Leader: You’re right! Say... Do you have a few more of those bags of pennies in there? I’d love to get a snack from a vending machine around here. I forgot my breakfast this morning!

Penny: No more pennies, but I have something better! *(Pulls out a paper clip)* See this little paper clip? It weighs hardly anything, but guess how much 5000 of these weigh? 5000 paper clips weigh 10 pounds!

Leader: Wow! I never would have guessed something so small could end up weighing that much.

Penny: I know, right! Even the smallest things, like a penny or a paper clip, can make a big difference when you add them all up! Pennies can make you rich, and paper clips can make a great workout tool!

Leader: You know, Penny, that kind of reminds me of our lesson today!

Penny: Really? Are you talking about getting really buff with paper clips?

Leader: *(Laughing)* No, no, no. We’re talking about how things that feel small to us can make a big difference! Today, we’re talking about how our prayers, when combined with everyone else’s, can make huge changes for missionaries!

Penny: Oh, I see! When we pray, it’s like stacking weights on a tipping scale! One prayer here, another prayer there, and suddenly... BAM! The whole thing tips! *(Mimics a dramatic tipping motion, almost losing her balance)*

Leader: Are you ok, Penny?

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Penny: *(Giggling)* Whoa! Almost needed a safety helmet for that one!

Leader: I'm glad you're okay! Penny, do you remember the story of Peter in prison?

Penny: *(Nodding emphatically)* Of course! Peter was in a super boring, dirty, and lonely prison. Poor guy!

Leader: That's right! But while he was in prison, his friends were praying for him to be freed. *(To the kids)* I won't spoil the rest of the story yet, but just know something awesome happened!

Penny: Ooooh, I'm so excited for them to find out what happened! Those prayers really made a difference for Peter!

Leader: *(Chuckles)* They sure did! Even though none of the prayers were more powerful than the next, when they all added their prayer together, a miracle happened!

Penny: That's right!

Leader: Today, we're not just talking about Peter. Just like how his friends prayed for him, we are learning that we can do the same for missionaries all over the world!

Penny: What, are they stuck in jail, too?

Leader: Well, some of them could be! But no matter where they are, our prayers can help them share about Jesus with more people! Missionaries need our prayers to keep them safe, healthy, and able to talk about Jesus everywhere they go!

Penny: Wow! That sounds important! I think it's time for me to leave so you can learn more about that! I am Penny Worth. Never forget that the little things stack up! See ya!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Who Prayed What?”

Items Needed For Game:

“Who Prayed What?” Graphics

.....

Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to participate in this quiz game.

.....

How To Play:

Choose three boys and three girls to compete. Each slide has a question listed along with several options of answers. Each question has to do with things people prayed for in the Bible. The first one to “buzz in” and get the answer correct gets a point. If a contestant buzzes in first, but gets it wrong, the other team gets a point. The team to earn the most points during the game wins.



Bible Story

“Peter In Prison”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Acts 12; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

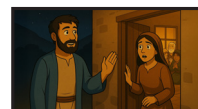
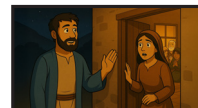
Today, our Bible Story comes from the book of Acts, chapter 12. Peter was in a city, telling others about Jesus, praying for them to be healed, and doing good. As usual, the religious leaders didn’t like what he was doing, so they had him arrested and placed in prison simply for preaching about Jesus. (*show pic*)



They had Peter shackled and placed between two guards. Even if he wanted to try to get away, there was no way Peter could escape without dragging these two prison guards along. It seemed like a hopeless situation. He was in prison with no hope of escape. However, on the other side of town, there was a group of Christians meeting together in a house. They were praying for God to deliver Peter. They knew only God could help Peter, so they *prayed!*



In the middle of the night, while Peter was sleeping in a prison cell chained to two prison guards, an angel suddenly appeared. (*show pic*) The angel woke Peter up by tapping him on the side. Can you imagine how that went? I wonder if Peter was one of those heavy sleepers who wakes up all groggy. He might have slowly woken up, rubbed his eyes, looked at the angel, paused, looked at the angel again, and then freaked out. We don’t know exactly. The Bible doesn’t tell us those details. What we do know is that the angel told Peter, “Quick, get up!” Peter had a choice to make. Would he argue with the angel? Would he say, “Listen, angel, I am sure you mean well, but can’t you see that I am chained to two guards? How am I supposed to get up?” Peter didn’t do that. He obeyed, did his part, and got up. The angel led Peter out of the prison and then suddenly disappeared.



Peter walked away from the prison and walked straight to the house where the people were praying for him (*show pic*). When he arrived, he knocked on the door. The girl who answered the door couldn’t believe it was Peter at the door. She actually closed the door in Peter’s face and ran to tell the others, “Peter is at the door.” The people didn’t believe her at first, but she kept insisting that it was definitely Peter at the door.

(*show pic*) Finally, the people ran and opened the door. They welcomed Peter inside - safe from prison. Their prayers for Peter were “The Tipping Point” that brought about a miracle, and God helped Peter break free from prison! Today, you are going to learn how God can do amazing things when you pray for others! Every prayer you pray is important. You never know when *your* prayer could be “The Tipping Point.”



Call To Action

“PRAY”

Materials Needed:

The “Lesson 1 - Call To Action” graphics; pair of walkie-talkies; volunteer; an old-school tipping weight scale; weights to place on the scale

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “Lesson 1 - Call To Action - Title”; label one side of the scale “Problem” and the other side “Prayer”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Prayer is such a huge and important part of your life as a Christian. Prayer is simply talking to God AND listening as He talks back to you. Every person who is a follower of Jesus should pray every chance he or she gets. But, did you know there are some people who really struggle with prayer? It’s true! Some people have real difficulties with prayer. Maybe they aren’t sure what to say. Maybe they don’t feel worthy enough to talk to God. Today, we are going to learn some really cool lessons about prayer and why it is so important to have prayer as a part of our lives.

One thing I hear from people when they talk about prayer is, “I feel like I am just talking to the air. I don’t know if God really hears me or not.” Well, the Bible tells us something very awesome...

When You Pray, God Hears You *(slide)*



That’s right. Every time I pray, God hears me. Every time YOU pray, God hears YOU. The Bible says in 1 John 5:14, “And we can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will.” Isn’t that awesome? God hears us every time we pray.

(bring up your volunteer and have them go outside the room in the hallway) OK, my volunteer is going to represent God, and I am going to represent you. Too often, we view God as a long way off in Heaven. He’s “way up there” and we are “way down here.” *(demonstrate how when you talk to them, the person outside is not able to hear you)* We often think, “God can’t hear me when I pray. He’s just too far away.” BUT, let me show you what it is actually like.

(Bring out the pair of walkie-talkies, send one out to the hallway to your volunteer, keep the other for yourself) Prayer is actually like this. *(demonstrate talking directly back and forth with your volunteer in the hallway)* When you talk, God hears you instantly. It’s like you have a direct line to God. There’s no delay, no bad signal, and no dropped call. Just like my voice came straight through to my friend’s walkie-talkie, your prayers go straight to God!”

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



Call To Action (Continued)

Kids, you don't have to be important in the world's eyes for God to hear you. Every time you pray - whether it's at bedtime, at school, or even in the middle of a soccer game - God hears you! Not only that, but...

Missionaries Need Our Prayers (slide)



Missionaries are people who leave their homes, families, and comforts to go where God sends them. Sometimes they are all the way across the world. Their mission is to tell people about Jesus who may have never even heard His name before. That can be exciting, but it can also be very difficult. Missionaries often face challenges like learning a new language, living in a different culture, or even being in places where following Jesus is against the law. They need courage, strength, and wisdom every single day. And that's why they need our prayers!

Here's something amazing: you may never meet the missionaries you are praying for, but God uses your prayers to give missionaries protection, open doors for them to share the Gospel, and encourage their hearts. That means when you pray, you're not just helping one person. You are helping spread the message of Jesus all around the world! And, you never know...

My Prayer Might Be The Tipping Point (slide)



Every prayer matters! You never know which prayer might be the one that tips the balance and brings a breakthrough. That's why we must never give up praying for our missionaries!

(Bring out the old-school tipping weight scale or make one with two buckets hanging on each side of a board balanced on a stand. One side is labeled “Problem” and the other side “Prayer.” Place an amount of weight on the “Problems.”)

This side of the scale is heavy with problems. Sometimes it feels like it's overwhelming. But what happens when we pray? *(as you speak, place one weight at a time into the “Prayer” side slowly, timing the last weight perfectly)* At first, you pray and it doesn't seem like much is happening. But you don't give up. You keep on praying and praying and praying. Why? Because you never know when the prayer you pray may be *(add the final weight that allows the scale dramatically tip)* “The Tipping Point!”

Isn't that amazing!!! That last prayer made all the difference! It was the tipping point! But here's the thing....all the other prayers mattered, too. Without them, this last one wouldn't have tipped the scale. Every single prayer was part of the miracle. So, don't stop praying because the very next prayer could be “The Tipping Point.”

ALTAR RESPONSE *(play soft music)*

Spend some time praying for the missionaries that your church supports. Perhaps put some of their names and photos on the screen to focus the kids' prayers. Remind the children that their prayer could be “The Tipping Point.”

**REWIND!****Materials Needed:**

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I Will Pray For Missionaries!”

2. What was the name of the man in prison in our Bible Story?

Answer: Peter

3. What were the people doing for Peter in a house across town?

Answer: Praying

4. When Peter woke up, what did he see in front of him?

Answer: Angel

5. What did the young girl do when she saw Peter at the door?

Answer: Left Him There

6. According to our lesson today, “God _____ You When You Pray!”

Answer: Hears

7. According to our lesson today, “Missionaries Need Our _____.”

Answer: Prayers

8. According to our lesson today, “My Prayer Might Be The _____.”

Answer: Tipping Point

9. True or False: God only hears some prayers.

Answer: False

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: James 5:16b