

Be connected

Introduce the theme of these activities. It's always good to spend time talking with people who love and care for us. As Christians we know that we can talk with God at any time; He's always there for us and wants what's best for our lives. Explore the theme of praying to God by looking at the character of Paul.

Value/characteristic: Praying to God Character: Paul

Plug in

Read the following from I Thessalonians Ch.5.16-18 or look it up using <u>www.biblegateway.com</u>

It says 'Always be happy. Never stop praying. Give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.'

This was written by a person called Paul, who was involved in helping people to follow Jesus. Paul knew that in order for them to grow, they needed to regularly pray to God and ask for His help, rather than focussing on, and depending upon, themselves.

Power up

You'll need: 2 people and a ball/bean bag/teddy.

Throw the ball (or other item) to each other. As you do, the person throwing the ball asks the other person a question e.g. what's your favourite food? The 'catcher' answers this question as they catch the ball. Keep throwing the ball backwards and forwards for a short time, asking each other some quick fire questions. At the end discuss what you found out about each other. It may be hard for you to remember, as you could have been concentrating on catching the ball rather than listening. Isn't it amazing that God is always listening? He hears our prayers.



In the film *The Muppets* we see Kermit the Frog desperate to save a theatre. However, when Kermit asks businessman Tex Richman for his help with this, he refuses to listen properly and to help, because he doesn't care for Kermit and the rest of the Muppets – he only cares about



making money. The Muppets: 00:52:30 - 00:55:39.

Christians know that when they turn to God in prayer He always listens and is there to do what's best, because He cares for us.



You'll need: Coloured strips of paper, pens/pencils and glue/sticky tape.

Make prayer chains. There are many different ways to say prayers to God and lots to thank God for. On each strip of coloured paper write something that we can thank God for e.g. our home, family, food to eat. Stick them together to create a paper chain.

Connect

Hang your prayer chain in your window to brighten up your window and for passers-by to see at this difficult time.