

Prayer Games

Description:

fun ways to pray in an ice-breaker way, plus a work page

Aim: to pray for Bibleless people in a kid-friendly manner

Audience: Pre-school through high school, depending on their coolness factor, any size group

Time: various

Equipment: The book, *From Akebu to Zapotec*, available from Wycliffe, plus various items listed

Scripture to Study: Colossians 4:2-4;



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Leader's Instructions:

1. Use cards from the game From Akebu to Zapotec Memory Card Game or make your own color, or black and white, copies of pages from the book *From Akebu to Zapotec**, both available from Wycliffe. Shrink pages down by 50 percent. Copy or attach items for prayer from page five on the back of each copy. For extra durability, laminate them and use repeatedly for years to come as you 'pray without ceasing' for Bibleless people groups.

*or from the *Children's Prayer Journal* downloadable from www.wycliffe.ca/resources/children_ministry_ready.html

2. To heighten excitement about praying for Bibleless people on a regular basis, use a different prayer game each week. Or, throw a big Prayer Party, combining several of the games and refreshments, for a one-time prayer emphasis. Warning: it's so much fun to pray this way, children are likely to beg to play these games regularly after the party!

Prayer Sardines

Like the game *Sardines*:

- One person (or several if you have a large group), is given a *From Akebu to Zapotec* card (as in point one above) and sent out to hide.
- The rest of the group then tries to find the hidden person/s. Those who find the card-holder must hide there, too, and pack the hiding space like sardines in a can.
- Call time after several minutes and let the praying begin for the group on the page. This works well in a house or outside in good weather (with well-defined boundaries). See items for prayer on page five.

Musical Chairs Prayer

Similar to musical chairs:

- In plain view, tape one prayer card to the back of each chair. Also tape one out of sight underneath the seat, and a third one hidden behind the back cushion of each chair.
- Play ethnically different music, Christian music, or a jungle sounds tape while the children walk around the chairs. When the music stops, each person kneels down and prays for one minute for the people group they see on the back cushion of their chair. See items for prayer on page five.

- Turn those cards in and start the music again. When the music stops the second and third time, tell the children to find the other cards hidden somewhere on the chair. Pray for what's on each card and then count how many are in the basket. You'll be amazed at how many Bibleless groups you've prayed for in just a few minutes!
- Remind the children that prayer changes things. It is often said that "children can advance God's work all over the world," and that's just what they're doing!

Cake Walk the World

- On the floor, let students make a giant world map, copying the one provided on the last page of the book *From Akebu to Zapotec*. Use rope or string for the outline, or color on giant pieces of butcher paper. Chalk works great on a parking lots.
- Position the laminated cards on the map as designated on the book's map.
- Begin exotic music, jungle sounds tape, or a Christian music tape and have the children move from one letter to the next, like in a cake walk, around the world.
- When the music stops, each person hurries to the nearest card, kneels and prays for one minute for that Bibleless people group. Several may end up sharing one card. That's O.K., too. Kneeling helps to read the card, and promotes a different prayer posture! See items for prayer on page five.
- For variation, play a marching song and let children carry flags they've made representing different countries. Then stop to pray.

Prayer Balloons

- Choose several Bibleless people groups from the book *From Akebu to Zapotec*. Cut small slips of paper and write one people group name on each. Roll the paper up and push one into each balloon before blowing it up.
- Form children into small or large circles and 'bob' a balloon out to someone. Or toss several out at once! No balloon is to touch the floor and no one is to hold a balloon. Rather, they must keep balloons in the air with 'volleyball-like' taps.
- After 30 seconds, blow the whistle or call, "Stop." Now, the nearest person catches the balloon and holds it.
- Instruct balloon-holders to sit on the balloons to pop** them and

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retrieve the slip of paper. Read about that group from the book and pray. See prayer items on page five. If you've used several balloons, the children can form several small prayer groups. With only one balloon, the group at large can pray for one people group. ***Supervision recommended to prevent eye injury!*

- Repeat as long as you're still having fun!

Seek and Pray

- Hide, or post in plain view, several of the Bibleless people cards around the area you choose: a room, building or outside play area. Clearly number each card: 1, 2, 3, etc.
- Divide the children into the same number of groups as the cards you've chosen. Actually it is helpful to have one or two extra people group cards than groups of children, since some groups may pray faster than others.
- Assign each group of children a number: 1, 2, 3, etc. Send them off to find their corresponding Bibleless people prayer card. Instruct them to pray as a group for those people.
- After one minute, they should return to you for another number and be off to search for it and pray.
- Continue for 5-10 minutes, as you like. Then come together and count how many people you have prayed for in a short few minutes! This is time well spent because, after all, God answers prayer. See prayer items on page five.

Mingle-Huddle

Another way to get young people into groups to pray:

- Divide into two groups and line up evenly along opposite sides of the room.
- When the music starts, everyone walks straight across to the opposite side of the room and back. Continue going back and forth, between the lines of walkers until the music stops.
- When the music stops, the leader calls out a number and everyone must scurry to get into a group of that size. The leader calls out the name of a Bibleless people group and everyone prays in their small groups for one minute. See prayer items on page five.
- Resume walking and calling out other numbers for as long as all are having fun.

Praying from *Akebu to Zapotec*

Notes:

It is said that “children can advance God’s work all over the world.” Do you believe it? Well, it’s true!

We Christians, young or old, enter into real spiritual struggles on behalf of Bibleless people when we pray. Satan does not want these people to have the Good News of Jesus Christ. He does not want them to move out of his dark kingdom into the Kingdom of Light. Here are just a few points to get you started:

- Ask God to break Satan’s power over people’s minds.
- Pray for God to prepare translation teams to do the work. They may be foreigners (like us), members of the people group for whom you are praying or a combination of both! Your prayers can include asking God to call translators; supply finances, health and government approval; protect the translation project from Satan’s attacks; for peace in the country; for acceptance by leaders; for experiences that train translation teams to work well with people of other cultures; and much more!
- Ask God to prepare the translators with the proper schooling and life experiences ahead of time, so they can translate well.
- Ask God to give people a hunger and thirst to read His Word in their own language.
- Pray that God will speak to the hearts of local people who listen to early drafts of the translation. They are often the first ones to trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord!
- Ask God what He wants YOU to do! *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* Ephesians 2:10, NIV

If time allows, let students do the following matching page to reinforce a few ways to pray for Bibleless people.

(Works best with grades 1-4.)

ANSWER KEY: 1C, 2B, 3A, 4E, 5F, 6D

Praying for Bibleless People Groups

Draw lines to connect words with pictures

1. Ask God to break Satan's power over people's hearts and minds.
2. Ask God to prepare translators with proper schooling and life experiences so they can translate well. (That is, to write the Bible in another language.)
3. Ask God to prepare translation teams to work together well. No one can do it alone!
4. Ask God to give people a hunger and thirst to read His Word in their own language. What if no one wanted to read the Bible when it was all done?
5. Pray that God will speak to the hearts of local people who listen to early drafts of the translation. They are often the first ones to trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord!
6. Ask God what He wants YOU to do! Ephesians 2:10

