



**Five Lessons**  
on the  
**Topic of Prayer**

**Written by Elizabeth McGruther**

**Junior  
Christian  
Endeavour**



# The Weekly Devotional Meeting



Christian Endeavour aims to train young people to actively take part in their Christian meeting. The following five Bible based topics on **Prayer** contain many opportunities for Junior participation.

## The Plan

The 'CHAIRPERSON'S PLAN' need not be adhered to rigidly as you, the leader, may feel your Juniors need a lighter programme with some more active games or art work etc., or the activity adapted to their needs. The time allowed has also to be considered and perhaps you will need to cut out some of the items. The order of items, however, does have a progression and should be used in the given order.

## Programme Contents

Refer to the 'Programme Contents' for guidance on Chain Prayer, Sword Drill and Drama.

## Award Scheme



The programme content of the **Prayer** series is to introduce the Juniors to the concept of Christian prayer. To encourage regular personal daily prayer, each lesson contains a **Prayer Diary**.

If you are participating in the Award Scheme, Prayer is one of the compulsory Awards, recommended for the Bronze Stage. To gain a Prayer certificate, evidence of two months personal prayer is required, and the Prayer Diaries are used for this. The Group leader would also verify that the Junior has taken part in public prayer in the weekly meetings.

Further details about the Award Scheme can be obtained from the National Headquarters. Other Awards which may be worked on during the weekly devotional meeting are 'Games/ quiz Master', 'Public Bible Reading', 'Book Keeping', 'Chairperson', 'Faithful Attender', 'Instrumentalist', 'Singer', 'Meeting Room Attendant', 'Speaker', and 'Drama'.

## Acknowledgements

**Bible version** - quotes for Bible texts are acknowledged to be from the Good News Bible, or the New International Version.

### Music -

MP = Mission Praise, compiled by Peter Horrobin and Greg Leavers, published by Collins

JP = Junior Praise, compiled by Peter Horrobin and Greg Leavers, published by Marshall Pickering

### Clipart -

Authentic Software,  
Kingstown Broadway,  
Carlisle, CA3 0QS  
[www.sunrise-software.com](http://www.sunrise-software.com)

Serif Art Gallery,  
PO Box 2000,  
Nottingham,  
NG11 7GW  
[www.serif.com](http://www.serif.com)

"Instant Art for Bible Worksheets" from 'Palm Tree' series  
by Kevin Mayhew, published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

# Programme Contents

In the Christian Endeavour meetings, there is opportunity to gain confidence in

- Public prayer through **Chain Prayer**
- Finding one's way around the Bible through **Sword Drill**
- Understanding Biblical stories through **drama**
- Participating competitively and socially in **games**
- Learning through **quiz activities**

## Chain Prayer

A chain is made by joining many links and so with Chain Prayer, many small prayers from the Juniors are linked into a chain of prayer.

### Organisation:

- Sit in an inward facing circle of 6-8 Juniors, with a Leader. If the same group members are kept weekly, this can help the child's understanding of each other and their needs. It also leads to continuity and so there can be continued prayer for an item or thanks for answered prayer.
- Pass round an object e.g. A 'Prayer Bear' or frog (Fully Relying On God) so that each child will know their turn. If a child does not wish to participate s/he passes the object to the next person.
- OR use a Prayer Notebook. Each week a Junior writes in it, in advance, three items for prayer. This gives ideas to the other children and can be an excellent reference for answers to prayer.
- Take time to discuss items of need or praise in the group.

## Drama

This is a way of learning names, places and actions and understanding feelings and the manner in which people react to situations. There are three ways of doing this:

- The children mime to the Bible passage as it is read. Use a modern translation of the Bible and read slowly where there is more action or pause for an action.
- Have a narrator and the characters learn some of the spoken words and speak these at the appropriate part.
- Update and rewrite the story in a modern context. You will be surprised what the Juniors will come up with! Do not underestimate them.

## Sword Drill

Use the poster of **Ephesians 6: 17**. The Bible is called here the "Sword of the spirit" because we use it to fight the Devil. A sword is kept in a sheath hung from a belt at hip level. These commands are used:



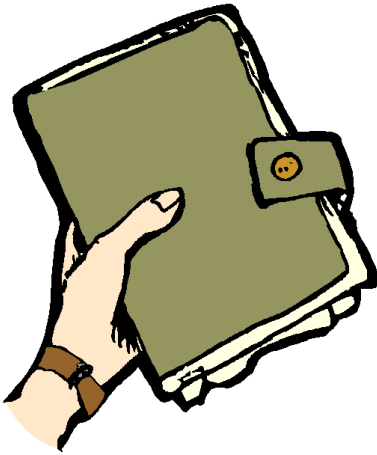
**Sheath Swords:** hold your closed Bible at hip level.

**Draw swords:** lift closed Bible high above your head.

**Charge:** Bibles are lowered for use.

Now have a competition to see who can find a Bible verse first. Give the commands 'sheath swords' and 'draw swords' and then tell the Juniors the verse to find. The Juniors repeat this several times before the 'charge' command is given. (Confine the verses to the Gospels until the order of the Bible books is familiar then gradually learn more of the New Testament order.) When a Junior finds the verse, s/he stands up. When several, or all, are standing, ask a Junior to read out the verse clearly. Help those with most need and encourage the more able to help others too.

# PRAYER BIBLE VERSES



*Sword Drill can be a fun way to find selected verses. The Good News Bible has an index at the back which lists the Bible references for many verses on prayer. Here are a few written out for quick reference.*

**Matthew 6: 7** When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do who think that God will hear them because their prayers are long.

**Philippians 4: 6** Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking with a thankful heart.

**1 Peter 4: 7** You must be self-controlled and alert, to be able to pray.

**James 5: 16** Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you will be healed. The prayer of a good person has a powerful effect.

**Ephesians 6: 18** Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people.

**Matthew 18:19** Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

**1 John 5: 14** We have courage in God's presence, because we are sure that He hears us if we ask Him for anything that is according to His will.

**Romans 8: 26** The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

**1 Thessalonians 5: 16,17,18a** Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances.

**Matthew 26: 41** Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

**Colossians 4:2** Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.

