

## SPARKS

**MAIN POINT:** For each child to hear how prayer is special and if we keep going then we will see things happen.

**ADDITIONAL LEARNING:** For each child to hear the word perseverance and link it to keep on going.

**10:50am Free Play:** *Some time to play before beginning the main session.*

**11:15 Tidy Up Time:** *In order to keep their attention during the crafts and story be sure to tidy away everything so that there are no distractions in the room.*

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### **11:20 Story + Snack:**

**Ask the children if they've ever knocked on a door.**

**Were they scared? Have they ever waited and no one has answered? Did you try again or just knock once?**

*Sometimes when you knock on a door and Mum or Dad doesn't come straight away to open the door you can feel upset and sad and maybe even scared; and how nice it is when the door is answered and you see their smiling faces!!*

*Praying can be a bit like knocking on a door. We expect God to answer our prayers straight away but sometimes he doesn't – sometimes we have to wait a little while before He answers.*

*So what should we do?? Just pray once and wait politely for God to answer? Or keep on knowing, praying again and again?*

**TELL THE STORY: Use the text below to tell the story and use the musical instruments to make knocking sounds for parts of the story.**

*Using the instruments ask the children to make quiet sounds and then loud sounds.*

*Say that Jesus told a story about a man who was knocking on a door and we are going to listen to it now:*

*In the time of Jesus, poor people used to sleep in the living room – all over the carpet. People had big families and there wasn't much room to move when everyone was in bed.*

*One night a man was just about to go to bed when visitors turned up. (Ask the children to make a polite knocking noise with their instruments.) He opened the door and let them in because he was very pleased to see them. (If any of the children have bells ask them to make a gentle ringing to show happiness.)*

*He asked his friends if they were hungry and they were. His wife made them a drink and started to make some food. "We need bread," she whispered to the man, "Can you go next door and borrow some?" (Because in Jesus' day there weren't supermarkets that stayed open all night.)*

*The man went next door and knocked loudly on the door. (Ask the children to knock.) There was no answer. The man thought. Should he knock again? Maybe*

*his neighbour was asleep...so he knocked again. (Knock.) This time there was a sleepy answer. "Go away."*

*"I need bread, can you lend me some? We've got visitors," asked the man.*

*"No, we are all in bed and it's too difficult to get up." Replied the man grumpily. (Ask the children if they can make grumpy sounds.)*

*The man thought; should he try again? Should he try somewhere else? But he knew his neighbour had bread and he needed to get some. So he knocked again. (Knocking sounds.)*

*"Go away, we are all in bed." Came the grumpy reply. But the man kept knocking – and kept knocking – and kept knocking. (Keep knocking.)*

*Eventually, the neighbour got tired of listening to the knocking and he got out of bed, tiptoed over his sleeping family, found the bread, opened the door and gave it to the man. And the man went home and fed his hungry visitors! (Make lots of noise with the instruments to celebrate! YAY!)*

*Jesus told that story to show that we should keep praying – we should keep asking God if something is important.*

**Ask the children if any of them have something they want to pray about? Give them a moment to pray for that thing now.**

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### **11:30 Craft: DOOR CRAFT**

Decorate a door and remind the children of the story.

Once all the doors have been made, play together with them, getting children to knock on them! Remind them that God likes it when we keep on talking to him and keep asking him for things.

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**11:50 Songs:** Use the iPad to worship God. Feel free to pick whichever songs you'd prefer by searching on YouTube. Some examples: Our God is a great big God/Alive by Hillsong/My Lighthouse by Rend Collective.

**If ahead of time then free play or play games together like duck duck goose or musical statues using CD player. 12pm Children given their crafts and taken down stairs to the meeting point ready to be picked up.**

## **FLAMES + BLAZE**

**MAIN POINT:** For each child to hear to think about the word perseverance and how we can have faith that keeps us going.

**ADDITIONAL LEARNING:** For each child to think about what perseverance looks like in prayer

**10:45am Play a collective game once all children have arrived.**

**Something like duck duck goose, bean game, simon says, number ladders, what's the time Mr.Wolf, ZipZapBoing!**

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### **11:00 GROUP TIME**

**Sit as a group and ask:** How are you doing?

Ask the children what the best thing that has happened this week.

See if the children can remember what book of the bible we are looking at.

Explain that we are still in the book of Hebrews and this week we are in Chapter 12! See what they remember about the book so far.

- Jesus being greater than everything (even greater than Angels!)

- Firm foundations and how God is trustworthy (story of the man who built his house on the rock)

- Jesus' sacrifice (how he gave his life for us)

- Heroes of faith (See if they can names any bible heroes like Abraham, Moses, Joseph etc)

Today we are looking at what it means to persevere. Ask if anyone knows what that word means. Then explain:

Perseverance means to keep going even when it's hard or feels impossible.

Perseverance is when you keep trying even if you've failed 100 times.

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### **11:15 BIBLE + Snack**

WATCH YOUTUBE VIDEO: search 'Famous Failures' by Motivating Success

Tell the children that these people could have given up but they didn't. They kept on going and they became VERY successful.

God wants us to keep going too and never give up especially when it comes to prayer.

### **READ HEBREWS 12v1-3**

**So we have many people of faith around us. Their lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way. And we should remove the sin that so easily catches us. Let us look only to Jesus. He is the one who began our faith, and he makes our faith perfect. Jesus suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the shame of the cross as if it were nothing. He did this because of the joy that God put before him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne. Think about Jesus. He held on patiently while sinful men were doing evil things against him. Look at Jesus' example so that you will not get tired and stop trying.**

Tell the children that the Hebrews passage talks a lot about not giving up but there are few other times Jesus tells us himself not to give up too so let's look at one of them.

**Read the children Matthew 5:5-15.**

**(You may need to explain that a hypocrite is someone who says one things but does something completely different.)**

Ask the children to act out the story in small groups.

Then talk about how persistent the person was that knocked at his neighbours door at midnight and how God wants us to do the same when we talk to him.

If there's help we need we should keep asking and keep looking to God.

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**11:35 CRAFT: SMALL DOORS**

*Each child gets a little door to decorate. There are some nature stickers that the children can also use to decorate and as they do remind them of the story and how they should keep knocking and asking God for help and things they need.*

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**11:45 PRAY**

*Tell the children that we are going to pray using the Teaspoon prayer (TSP)*

*THANK YOU - SORRY - PLEASE.*

Tell the children we are going to say thank you to God for prayer. Ask them if there is anything else they'd love to say thank you for then end in the prayer below:

***Thank you God that you love it when we pray and speak to you about what's going on in our lives. Amen***

Then tell them that we are going to say sorry. Tell the children to shut their eyes and think about something wrong they have done recently that they need to say sorry for. Give them a few moments of silence. Then say this prayer:

***Father God we are so sorry for when we get things wrong. We are sorry when we don't spend time talking you about our lives or ask you for help. Amen***

Then tell them that we are going to say please and ask God to help us be better. Ask them if there is anything they'd like to share that they want God's help with. Remind them of the passage we read and how God may not answer straight away so we need to keep on praying, keep on knocking. Give them a moment of quite and then end with this prayer:

***Please help us God to keep coming to you and asking you for help when we are in need. We give you today what we are struggling with and ask for your help. Go with us today we pray. Amen***