LESSON 2: PRAY IN JESUS’ NAME

AIM: To show the children that there is spiritual power in the name of Jesus. It is like a key that sets God in action.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Jesus said, ‘I am telling you the truth; the Father will give you anything you ask Him for in My name’.” (John 16:23)

TEACHING SESSION:

Read the story “Aisha’s Letter” until you are familiar with it. You may like to jot the important points down on a small card to help when telling the story. They are listed them below. The story could be effectively told through mime also.

- Aisha had lived in the mountain village all her life, only leaving it to occasionally go to the market.
- As a child, she tended the mountain goats.
- As a young woman, she married and moved to a hut at the bottom of the village.
- She was old now and her husband was dead; her children had moved away.
- Aisha was all alone and going blind.
- Neighbours suggested that she visit the missionary nurse.
- The nurse told Aisha that she would need an operation.
- The nurse’s brother was an eye surgeon in a town by the coast.
- The nurse wrote a letter for Aisha to take to her brother.
- Aisha was worried about travelling to a strange town.
- She took the letter but because of her failing sight, she got lost.
- She arrived at the hospital late. The door was closed and many people were waiting to get in.
- The doorkeeper told them all to go away and come back another day.
- Aisha knew she could not do that, so she began shouting, “I come in the name of his sister.”
- The doorkeeper saw the letter and let her in.
- The doctor recognized his sister’s writing.
- Aisha told him that she came in the name of his sister.
- He read the letter and admitted Aisha for her operation.
- Aisha was overwhelmed at the power of the letter and the sister’s name.
- She was an old, poor woman but she received her sight.
Likewise, when we come to God in prayer, the name of Jesus is very precious to Him, because Jesus is God’s Son, He died and rose again so that we can become God’s children and receive all that we need from Him.

Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father and continually speaks to the Father for us.

We must only use the name of Jesus out of a grateful heart, filled with respect and love, and because we know that we trust Jesus.

**MEMORY VERSE SUGGESTION:**
Provide paper and an envelope for each child. They can write the memory verse on the paper and decorate it to look like special notepaper, and write their own name and address on the envelope and put the letter inside.
AISHA’S LETTER

Old Aisha lived in a village high among the rocks looking out toward the Riff Mountains. She had lived in that village all her life, and except for an occasional trip to market, it was the only world she knew. As a child she had tended the goats high up where the charcoal burners lit their fires among the scrub. As a girl, she had later married, and travelled on horseback from the little thatched hut under the oak trees at the top of the village to another thatched hut by the well at the bottom of the village; and here she ground corn and drew water every day of her life, and here she had borne and brought up her children. But now her husband had died and the children had married and gone off to other villages, so old Aisha was left alone.

She was troubled because she seemed to be going blind, and whatever would happen to her then? Her daughters loved her, but her sons-in-law did not want her in their homes, and besides, her own little home was dear to her. Perhaps something could be done about her eyesight. That night she her neighbours came back from market, she tackled them on the subject.

They were quite encouraging. Yes, there was a missionary nurse in the little market town, and she had good medicine. Many went there and were cured of coughs and spots and sore eyes, and no, she did not ask for money. Yes, old Aisha should certainly go, and they would take her with them on the mule when they next went in. Aisha went home comforted, sure that her sight would be restored.

A week later, Aisha sat in the small mission dispensary, peering round and waiting her turn. When it came, the nurse greeted her kindly, examined her eyes and told her to sit down again. When all the other patients had gone, the nurse came and talked to her alone in her own language, and this was such a surprise to Aisha that it was quite a long time before she found herself able to listen to anything that was said. But at last they found themselves communicating.

“I can’t do anything for your eyes,” said the nurse. “You need an operation. But my brother in the town by the coast is an eye doctor. I think he could make you see.
“But how would I get to him?”
“In the bus.”
“But I’ve never been in the long distance buses and I have no money.”
“Perhaps your children would help you!”
“But if I went, what would I do when I got there? I’ve never been in the town and I would get lost.”
“You must ask your way to the hospital. Everyone knows the hospital.”
“And if I did get there, the doctor might see me. I’m only a poor old woman, and he won’t understand my language.”
“He sees many poor old women every day, and he speaks your language. Beside, I will give you a letter telling him that you have come from far away.”
The idea of a letter seemed to comfort her. She went back to the village and got in touch with her children. One day, she arrived with her son-in-law who was going to buy her a ticket and put her on the bus, and another distant relative would meet her and lodge her. But she wanted that letter. She had great faith in that letter. It was quite a long time before the nurse saw her again, and when at last she turned up, she was hardly recognisable for she wore spectacles and walked confidently. The shuffling feet and the peering look had quite changed. She could see again.
She arrived again in the middle of the dispensary, but again she waited until everyone had gone, for she had a story to tell. So the nurse took her upstairs and, over a glass of mint tea, Aisha recounted her experiences, and the nurse smiled, imagining the scene - the busy outpatients department, the crowds at the door, the harassed doctor and the determined old woman.
“I went up early in the morning, as you said, “began Aisha, “and as I said, I got lost. The relative with whom I stayed gave me money for the bus, but I got the wrong one and it was the time of the second prayer call when I arrived. The door was shut and there were many standing outside, late like me, and the knocked at the shut door. But the doorkeeper came out and told us that the room was full, and we must all go away and come back in the afternoon, or the next day. No one else could come in. The people argued and some were angry, but it was no use. The door was shut.”
“But I held up my letter and I shouted in a loud voice, ‘But I come in the name of his sister. I come in the name of his sister.’”
The doorkeeper glanced at the letter. It seemed authentic and, for all he knew, it might be urgent. He admitted Aisha and took her to the consulting room, and the doctor, recognising the writing, read the letter at once and looked at her eyes. The condition was obvious and he told Aisha that he would treat her eye condition. It was a perfectly ordinary, routine event, but to Aisha, it had seemed amazingly overwhelming.

“The doorkeeper beckoned me in,” she continued, with shining eyes, “I alone! All the others were asked to go away. There were many people waiting, but the doorkeeper led me through the crowds in front of them all into the presence of the doctor. And I said again, “I come in the name of your sister.” He moved away from all the other waiting people, took the letter from me and read it right there. And then he turned back to me, an old and poor woman, and he did for me all that you asked - a bed, an eye operation … and now I can see!”

She paused and considered all that had happened. When she spoke again, her voice was soft and full of wonder.

“How precious is your name to him! she murmured. “He did everything that you asked for me. How precious is your name!”

“In the name of Jesus” is not a magical formula to have our prayers answered. As we have seen, it is Jesus’ life, death and resurrection that have brought us back to God. It is because of what Jesus has done that we are again acceptable to God and can come to him in prayer. It is therefore by our faith in Jesus, because of our belief in him, that our prayers are heard. By praying “in Jesus’ name”, we are simply acknowledging to God, and reminding ourselves, that we owe our new relationship with God entirely to Jesus and his work. It also means that, just as the nurse asked for certain things for Aisha in her letter, signed in her name, so we can ask and receive anything the Lord wants us to have, and this includes everything that he has promised us in the Bible.

**KEY SCRIPTURES:**

**Hebrews 7:24-25**—“Jesus lives forever…. And so He is able, now and always, to save those who come to God through Him, because He lives forever to plead with God for them.”

**John 16:23** - “I am telling you the truth: the Father will give you anything you ask of Him in my name.”
Fill in the missing letters from the word list below

“... G______ h____ t____ n______

J______ b__________ h_

w______ s______ p______

f______ t______ s______.”

Matthew 1:21
A Prayer

Lord, you love me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to you belong,
We are weak, but you are strong.

Lord, you love me!
You will stay,
Close beside me all the way;
If I love you, when I die
You will take me home on high.

(Adapted from “Jesus loves me’ by Anna Bartlett Warner 1820-1915)

My prayer .... ________________________________

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