

CPR—Children's Prayer Revival

Service 3

Calling 911

Pray for Protection

Scripture Test: Matthew 6:12-13; Psalm 91:5; Daniel 6; Hebrews 13:6

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:13

Lesson Objective: God answers when His children call for help.

POWer Line: Need help? Call out in prayer—anytime, anywhere.

Schedule

I. POWer of Worship (25-30 minutes)

A. Welcome and Introduction (5-7 minutes)

The Underground Church

B. Praise Generator (5-7 minutes)

A cappella

C. Prayer Time (6-8 minutes)

POWer line

Under Surveillance

Prayer Globe

D. Testimony Service (6-8 minutes)

Emergency!

E. Offering (3-4 minutes)

II. POWer of the Word (25-30 minutes)

A. Memory Verse (8-10 minutes)

Senseless Harry

B. Spirit Generator (3 minutes)

Worship Chorus

C. Truth Conductor (8 minutes)

Harry Calls 911

C. Illustrated Sermon (8 minutes)

Daniel Calls on God

D. Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

Supply List

Children's Prayer Revival banner

inflatable prayer globe

glow-in-the-dark praying hands (1 per child)

costumes for Harry and Super EMT

dark material or black garbage bags, tape

wire or spring curtain rod, dark curtain

flashcards of the Lord's Prayer, tape or Plasti-Tak

3 or 4 large flashlights

posterboard, fluorescent markers

clipboard and pen, black trench coat

index cards, pen

gag, ear plugs, tape, blindfold, light-weight rope

fire escape map

fire drill sound effect

cell phone

crown, 3 black half-masks, white hat/cap, ring of tinsel

copies of Bible story and scripts

Preparation

- If you had a practice session after the second service, your helpers should be in place and ready to go.

- Make a fire escape map, showing the children how to exit the building. If your church does not have an emergency evacuation plan, with the help of the church administrators, create one. Post the map on the inside of the classroom or sanctuary exit door.
- Make five flashcards with different emergencies written on them (e.g., a car wreck, a broken bone, a bad storm, threat of violence, mean dog or dangerous insect or snake).
- Hang a wire across the top of the sanctuary entrance. Drape a dark curtain across it. Place dark material (such as black garbage bags) over all windows and openings.
- Write the *POWer line* on a poster with fluorescent markers.
- Display the flashcards of Matthew 6:9-12.

POWer of Worship

Welcome and Introduction (5-7 minutes)

Give three or four flashlights to adults and ask them to spotlight the speakers during the underground church service.

As the children enter, the lights should be dim and people kneeling in quiet prayer.

Greet the children at the door with your finger to your lips.

Give each child a set of glow-in-the-dark praying hands. Whisper for him to go into the sanctuary and kneel or sit quietly.

When it is time to start, close the curtain over the entrance. The flashlights focus on the teacher as she moves quietly to the front.

TEACHER: Whispers. **Tonight we are worshipping with the underground church in Saudi Arabia. We will learn about different ways that God answers when His children call for help. We must be. . . .**

Harry enters, carrying a Bible and stumbling over everything.

HARRY: Loudly. **What's going on here? Why are the lights out? Who put those garbage bags over the. . . .**

- TEACHER: Finger to lips. **Shhhhh!** Whispers loudly. **Harry! Please, be quiet. Those are blackout curtains. We are worshiping with the underground church in Saudi Arabia.**
- HARRY: Slightly softer. **Underground church?** Looks around in surprise. **You mean we are underground?**
- TEACHER: Softly. **We aren't really underground. This is an old warehouse. When we say *underground*, we mean "secretly."** The underground church meets in secret.
- HARRY: Loudly. **In secret? Why would they do that? Are they ashamed? Jesus said for us to tell everyone about the gospel, not to hide in secret.**
- TEACHER: Softly. **The saints in the underground church meet in secret because it is dangerous to worship Jesus in some countries, like Saudi Arabia. Just saying "Jesus" or owning a Bible could get a person thrown into jail and even killed.**
- HARRY: Looks around frantically. Makes a big show of hiding his Bible behind his back. **K-k-killed? H-h-h-aving a Bible could get me k-k-killed?**
- TEACHER: **In Saudi Arabia it could.**
- HARRY: **And we're in S-S-Saudi Arabia?**
- TEACHER: **Yes.**
- HARRY: **Uhhh, I just remembered my mother needs me at home.** Starts for the exit. **How far is it from Saudi Arabia to my house?**
- TEACHER: Grabs Harry. **Relax, Harry. We are just pretending to be in Saudi Arabia. We want to learn more about what it would be like to live in a country where it is against the law to be a Christian. Sit down over there and be absolutely quiet because we are under surveillance.**

Make a big show of counting the people in the room. Make sure the children hear the number.

Praise Generator (5-7 minutes)

"Covered by His Blood"

"Angels Watchin' over Me"

"I've Got Peace like a River"

Sing a cappella very softly, even humming some choruses.

Prayer Time (6-8 minutes)

Display in a prominent place the *POWER line* written with a fluorescent marker. Ask the children to whisper it softly. **Need help? Call out in prayer, anytime, anywhere.**

(Ask the children to softly repeat these three attributes of God.)

God is *omnipresent*. He is everywhere.

God is *omniscient*. He knows everything.

God is *omnipotent*. He has all power.

So anytime, anywhere we can call out in prayer because God is present, knows what we need, and He has the power to meet our need.

As the children repeat the *POWER line*, the government man, wearing a black trench coat, sneaks in carrying a clipboard and pen. Do not spotlight him. (This skit is based on true happenings.)

TEACHER: Whispers. **Children, we are under surveillance. The man who just entered is from the police. If he sees our Bibles, he will arrest us.**

 Prays. **Lord, You made blind eyes see, now make seeing eyes blind.**

EMT: **Jesus, we plead Your blood.**

The government man walks around the room, searching for Bibles. He overlooks the children's Bibles as if they were invisible.

MAN: Mutters. **They've got to be here somewhere. I've got to find some evidence. All Christians have Bibles. I've just got to find one.**

TEACHER: **Let's say Hallelujah and confuse the devil.** Lead the children in raising their hands and saying, "Hallelujah" over and over.

As the children worship, the man frantically writes.

MAN: Murmurs. **Hallelujah? Hallelujah? What kind of a word is that? I don't even know how to spell it!**

He slowly backs up and leaves the room.

For years Brother Andrew, God's Smuggler, carried Bibles into countries where they were illegal. Many times as he crossed borders with suitcases full of Bibles, he prayed, "Lord, You made blind eyes see, now make seeing eyes blind." As the border agents searched his car and suitcases, they would look right at the Bibles and never see them. Through the years Brother Andrew smuggled thousands of Bibles to Christians in underground churches. Over and over God protected him.

Repeat the *POWER line*. **Need help? Call out in prayer, anytime, anywhere.**

Bring out the prayer globe. Call a child to the front and help him find Saudi Arabia on the globe. As he holds his finger on that spot, lead the congregation in prayer for Christians in this nation.

Ask the children to name other countries where Christians are being persecuted. (In the past this has happened mainly in communist countries, but the main threat to Christians today is in Muslim countries such as Sudan, Iran, Iraq, and northern African nations.)

As each country is named, help a child find it on the globe. Pray that the Word of the Lord will go forth unhindered in these lands and people will come to know the truth.

Testimony Time (6-8 minutes)

The Super EMT reads the emergency cards one at a time and lets one child who has been in each situation testify.

After the last testimony, the government man enters. Raise your hands and start saying, "Hallelujah." The children will follow suit.

As the government man walks up to the Super EMT, stop worshiping and listen.

EMT: **Could I help you?**

MAN: **This is so frustrating! My chief sent me here to find evidence that you are breaking the law. I couldn't find one Bible in this whole congregation. I was**

supposed to write down everything that you say in this meeting. All you have said is "Hallelujah." And I can't even spell that! What is this hallelujah business?

EMT: **It is praise to our Savior Jes. . . .**

MAN: Holds up hand. **Stop! Don't say that word. If you say it, I'll have to arrest you.**

EMT: Forcefully, especially when calling on the name of Jesus. **I am going to say it, even if you arrest me! All power in heaven and in earth is in the name of Jesus! It is the saving name of the Lord. At the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every. . . .**

MAN: Falls to his knees. **Oh, help me, please help me. I want to be saved. Jesus! Jesus! Save me.**

Lead the children in singing a chorus about the power of the name of Jesus. As they sing, turn up the lights to their normal level. The government man exits or takes a seat with the children.

Something very similar to the scene we just enacted really happened. All over the world God's children are calling out to Him in prayer, and He is delivering them from danger.

We do not have to be afraid of police breaking into our service and arresting us for saying the name of Jesus or having a Bible. But many people in our nation are afraid of the terrorists. Listen to what the Bible says.

Read Psalm 91:5.

We do not have to be afraid of the terrorists or their weapons. We have the name of Jesus, and we are protected by His blood. Let's raise our hands and thank the Lord for protecting us. Do so.

Harry slips from the room to get ready for the Senseless Harry skit.

Offering (3-4 minutes)

Remind the children where the offering is going. Let them march and sing as they give.

POWER of the Word

Memory Verse (8-10 minutes)

Ask everyone to stand and pray the portion of the Lord's Prayer learned to this point (Matthew 6:9-12). Thank them for their help and let them be seated.

Add the flashcards for verse 13. As the children read the first phrase, "And lead us not into temptation," Harry bursts into the room blindfolded, wearing earplugs, with tape over his nose, a gag over his mouth, and his hands lightly tied in front of him. Hurry to him and help him to the front of the room, staying close so he does not get hurt. Harry greatly exaggerates his actions.

TEACHER: **Hurrying Harry, what is the matter with you? Did someone kidnap you? Are you hurt?**

HARRY: Mumbles though his gag.

TEACHER: **I can't understand you. Stand still. Let me get this gag off you.** Starts to remove the gag.

HARRY: Jerks away from the teacher. Shakes his head violently.

TEACHER: **You don't want the gag taken off?**

HARRY: Motions at his ears with his bound hands.

TEACHER: **Oh, you can't hear. Well, let's just take those earplugs out.** Puts hand on Harry's ear.

HARRY: Jerks away. Shaking head wildly.

TEACHER: Shouts. **You don't want the earplugs removed?**

HARRY: Shakes his head.

TEACHER: Yells. **Well, I don't understand that. You can't hear, but you won't take the earplugs out?** To the kids. **Apparently, he doesn't want to hear or talk.**

Touches the blindfold. Yells. **What about the blindfold? Can I take it off?**

HARRY: Shakes his head violently.

TEACHER: Perplexed. **No? You don't want to hear, talk, or see?**

HARRY: Nods yes, then shakes head no.

TEACHER: **Yes? No? You do or you don't?**

HARRY: Nods his head, then shakes it.

TEACHER: Points at Harry's nose and hands. Says to the children. **I guess he doesn't want to smell or touch anything either.** Leads Harry to a chair facing the class.

Speaks loudly and firmly. **Sit down here before you hurt yourself. You can't see, hear, smell, talk, or touch anything. Yet you won't let me help you. Are you afraid of the kidnappers?** Silence.

Oh, I forgot. He can't hear. I am going to do something about this whether he wants me to or not. Puts hand gently on Harry's shoulder and yells. **Harry, I'm going to take those earplugs out and get that gag off your mouth.**

Harry resists, but after a short struggle, the teacher removes the earplugs and gag.

TEACHER: **Now tell me what is going on. Did someone try to kidnap you?**

HARRY: **No. Of course not! I just don't want to sin, so I figured if I could conquer my senses and couldn't see, hear, touch, speak, or smell anything, I wouldn't be tempted to sin. The kids just read that part of the Lord's Prayer that says "lead us not into temptation."**

TEACHER: Removes Harry's remaining restraints. **Harry, you don't have to be senseless to keep from being tempted. You just need to pray and open your senses to godly things. God will help you resist and overcome temptation.**

HARRY: **But I saw this comic book that I really wanted. I knew I shouldn't buy it because it was full of wicked, violent stuff, but I really, really wanted it. I figured if I blindfolded myself so I couldn't see it and tied up my hands so I couldn't get to my money and gagged myself so I couldn't tell the clerk. . . .**

TEACHER: **Harry, that is senseless! You don't have to do all that to keep from buying that comic book. Just ask God to help you. Remember our *POWER line*? Need help? Call out in prayer—anytime, anywhere. Then walk away from the rack where the comic books are.**

HARRY: **Well, that sure would be easier.** Bows head and prays. **“Lead me not into temptation.”** Looks up and smiles. **I’m glad I came to the Children’s Prayer Revival tonight.**

Harry returns to his seat.

Show the children the next phrase of the Lord’s Prayer, “Deliver us from evil.” **We do not have to live in fear of terrorists or evil people. We can ask God to deliver us from evil. The angels of the Lord camp around God’s children and protect them. We do not see the angels, but we can be sure that they are there.** Briefly tell about a time God protected you (or someone you know).

Post the last flashcard. **The Lord’s Prayer starts with praise, and it ends with praise.**

Ask the children to pray the whole prayer with you.

Spirit Generator (3 minutes)

Lead the children in a worship chorus to prepare their hearts for the Bible story.

Truth Conductor (8 minutes)

Harry Calls 911

Sound the fire drill alarm. To prevent panic, tell the children that this is just a skit.

HARRY: Jumps up, yelling. **Fire! Fire, fire, fire, fire! S-s-stay c-c-calm, “bodyevery.” I mean, everybody, “cay stalm.”** Starts running around the room. **I mean, “alm kay. . . .”**

EMT: **Harry, freeze!** Harry freezes.

EMT: **Calm down. In an emergency the first thing to remember is to “stay calm.”**

HARRY: **Tttttthat’s what I bbb-been ttttelling these kids—“alm stay,” I mean . . . cool it!**

EMT: **Harry, calm down or someone could get hurt.**

HARRY: **But I’m ss-s-scared. Panics. I’ve never been in a fire before!**

EMT: **Harry, freeze!** Harry freezes again.

EMT: **Everyone, listen to me and do what I say.** Gives instructions for the children to line up at the door. The helpers calmly and quickly pair the smaller children with the older ones.

Harry, hand me the fire escape map, please. Harry does not move.

EMT: **Harry, you have got to snap out it! The kids are depending on us, but we need the map to show us the fire escape route. Thaw!** Harry blinks, shakes his head, and points at the map on the wall.

EMT: **Thank you. While I outline the escape route to the kids, Harry, please count them to make sure everyone is here.**

The EMT explains to the children the escape route while Harry points at each child, counting silently.

HARRY: Panics. **Someone is missing!** Runs around the room frantically looking behind doors, under tables, etc.

At the beginning of the service we counted (X#) children. Now there are only (# one less). Who is missing? We've got to find him . . . or is it her?

EMT: **Calm down, Harry. Count again.**

Harry counts the children, coming up with the same number.

HARRY: **See I told you. Someone is missing. Help me find him . . . or her!** Starts to run around the room.

EMT: Puts hand on Harry and stops him. **Harry, no one is missing. You forgot to count yourself.**

HARRY: **You mean I'm missing? Somebody hurry and find me! Hurry!**

EMT: **Harry, you are right here. Now take a deep breath and calm down.**

Harry takes a deep breath and pulls a cell phone from his pocket, holds it upside down.

HARRY: **I've got to call 119 . . . I mean 991 . . . oh, what is the number that you call in emergencies?** The children tell him 911. **That's it. That's it.** Discovers the phone is upside down. **Nine-1-what was that other number? Nine? No! One!**

Again he dials 9-1-1 and has to hang up because he has dialed too many numbers.

EMT: Takes the phone from Harry and dials 911. **I need to report a fire at . . . what is this address?** The children tell him. He repeats the address into the phone. **What? . . . You're sure? . . . Thank you very much.** Gives the phone back to Harry.

Okay, kids, the fire department says that it was a small trash fire across the street. It has been taken care of. You may return to your seats.

As the children return to their seats, Harry pretends that he is about to faint. The EMT makes him put his head between his legs for a few seconds. Then he talks to the children briefly about the importance of staying calm and calling 911 in an emergency.

Illustrated Sermon (8 minutes)

Daniel Calls on God

Call the six children helping with Bible story to the front. Give each bad guy a black half-mask. Give Daniel a white hat/cap. Give the king a crown and the angel a ring of tinsel for a halo. Give each player a copy of the script with his part highlighted. They line up with their backs to the congregation: 3rd bad guy, 2nd bad guy, 1st bad guy, king, Daniel, angel.

Hold up the flashcard "Deliver us from evil" and ask the congregation to read it aloud. As they do so, Daniel turns to face the congregation and drops to a prayer position—on his knees, hands folded, eyes closed.

BAD GUY 1: Turns to the congregation and points at Daniel. **Would you just look at him! He makes me sick.**

BAD GUY 2: Turns to the congregation. **I know what you mean. Every day, three times a day, he kneels by his window, praying to his God.**

BAD GUY 3: Turns to the congregation. **Jehovah? He prays to Jehovah? Hardly a god at all, if you ask me. Why you can't even see this Jehovah. Our gods are metal and wood. At least, we can see what we are praying to.**

BAD GUY 2: I hate Daniel! He doesn't even belong in our country. He's just a prisoner-of-war.

BAD GUY 1: Yeah, but the king thinks he is some superstar. He put him over us, you know.

BAD GUY 2: I wish we could find a way to get rid of him.

BAD GUY 3: Mockingly. Oh, Daniel's perfect, and everybody knows it!

BAD GUY 1: Except for his love for Jehovah, he could be one of us.

BAD GUY 2: That's it! We trip him up through his God.

TEACHER: So the men who hated Daniel devised a plan to trick the king into getting rid of Daniel.

The king turns to face the congregation. All the bad guys turn to face him. (Daniel is still in his prayer position.)

BAD GUY 1: Oh mighty, most glorious, powerful, and handsome king, we, your humble servants, want to honor you in a special way.

KING: Proudly. Not a bad idea. I'm sure I deserve all the honor you can give me. How are you going to do it?

BAD GUY 3: Make a law and seal it with your ring, King Darius. Let it say you are the only god who can be prayed to for a month. The next thirty days are yours, oh King.

BAD GUY 1: Snickers. Yeah, if anyone prays to some other god, have him thrown into a den of lions.

KING: Lions, huh? That's pretty final.

BAD GUY 2: But, you want the people to know that you mean business. You are god for the next thirty days, and everybody better obey you.

KING: Nods head proudly. Yes, I am, and everybody better remember it.

BAD GUY 3: Just sign on the dotted line, King Darius, and we'll let the whole world know that you are god. Anybody who dares to pray to any other god will make good snack food for the lions.

Bad guys laugh. They and king turn their backs to the congregation.

TEACHER: **So it came to pass that when Daniel heard the king's decree, he was not afraid of what men could do to him. As always, Daniel threw open his window and prayed to the one true God who could deliver from evil.**

The bad guys turn to look at Daniel. They point at him and silently laugh, bending over, shoulders shaking, and holding their stomachs. Then they silently clap and jump for joy.

The first bad guy taps the king on the shoulder. King turns to face the congregation. Bad guys point at Daniel. The king looks at Daniel who is praying. He shows his horror by opening his eyes and mouth wide. He covers his mouth with both hands and shakes his head violently. The bad guys nod firmly.

TEACHER: **The king worked all day trying to save Daniel, but nothing could be done. He had made the law, and he had to enforce it.**

The bad guys high-five each other, and then turn their backs to the congregation.

Tell the children in the congregation that they are the lions. Let them roar a few times.

At sundown, just as Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, an angel of the Lord swooped into that den and locked the lions' mouths.

The angel turns and runs into the midst of the congregation, pretending to lock jaws as he goes. Then he stands guard. Daniel moves to the middle of the congregation, patting a few lions on the head as he goes. Tell the lions to try to roar, pretending their mouths are locked.

TEACHER: **The lions could not even roar. They just lay and went to sleep. After Daniel said his prayers, he did, too.**

But poor King Darius had a bad night. He didn't sleep one wink. He walked the floor.

The king walks back and forth.

TEACHER: **At the first break of day, King Darius hurried to the mouth of the lions' den.**

The king moves to the edge of the congregation.

KING: Calls. **Oh, Daniel, was the God you serve able to deliver you from the lions?**

DANIEL: **My God sent an angel and shut the lions' jaws. They have not hurt me.**

TEACHER: **The king rejoiced as he called for men to pull Daniel from the lions' den. Daniel did not have one scratch on him because he believed in God, and God delivered him from evil.**

Invitation and Prayer (5-7 minutes)

Daniel faced the lions. Brother Andrew, God's Smuggler, faced the guards at the borders. Christians in underground churches face persecution. What danger do you face? No matter what it might be, you do not have to be afraid. God will deliver you from evil.

Call for the children to form a circle around the altar, facing outward. Ask the parents to form a circle around the children, facing the children.

Ask a dad to read aloud Hebrews 13:6 with everyone repeating it phrase by phrase.

Call on another dad to lead the parents in corporate prayer, praying for the protection of the children.

Ask a mother to read Psalm 91:5 with everyone repeating after her.

Reach out and grab your fear. Now raise both hands to God and open your fist, giving your fear to God. Ask a mother to lead the parents in corporate prayer, as the children release their fears.

Then ask the children and parents to join hands. Be sure that everyone is holding hands with someone. Lead the children in a corporate prayer for the adults. Include the ministry and emergency personnel in this prayer.

Make closing announcements and ask the pastor or another minister to lead in the dismissal prayer, asking for God's protection over each one.