

# Throw Up A Prayer

## Opening Activity Lesson 3 - I Will Pray!

### PURPOSE:

This opening activity will show the children that they don't have to pray a certain way to get God to hear their prayers.

### DESCRIPTION:

In this activity, the children will attempt to get one person to put marbles in their teams' buckets by throwing paper airplanes that match the color of the buckets.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

For this activity, you will need this Help Sheet, a large number of marbles, and a hula hoop. For each team you will need a bucket and a large stack of colored paper.

*Note: Each team needs their own color of paper. Use one piece of paper to label the bucket to match that team. Set up the hula hoop and buckets as far across the room as possible from the teams and their stacks of paper. It should be a difficult throw, but not impossible. To save time, you could choose to have the paper planes made ahead of time.*

### TO INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. Today we are going to test a new method of communication.
2. We will be sending messages by paper airplane.
3. You will be sending messages to one person called the Receiver.
4. We will divide you into teams and you will take turns trying to get the paper airplanes to the Receiver.

**For detailed instructions on how to lead the activity, watch the Training Video.**

### DURING THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. One team has one color paper, and one team has another.
2. The buckets on either side of the Receiver have colors that match your paper colors.
3. The Receiver has a bucket full of marbles.
4. If you get one of your team's planes to land in the hula hoop in front of the Receiver, the Receiver will put a marble in your team's bucket.
5. The team with the most marbles in their bucket at the end of the game is the winner!

### AFTER THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. When you threw the airplanes did you know that they would get to the Receiver? (No.)
2. You didn't know that it would get to the Receiver because you didn't know where the plane might land.
3. If you didn't make the plane just right, and throw it just right, and if it didn't fly just right, it would not get to the Receiver and your message would be lost.
4. This game represents a wrong idea some people get about prayer. They think that God is so far away from us, that if we don't pray at just the right time, or at just the right place, or use just the right words, that God won't hear or listen to our prayers.
5. But that is not what Jesus taught His disciples about prayer.

### CLOSING STATEMENT:

Let's go into Large Group and learn more about what Jesus taught about prayer.