

Busy Bee - My God - His Power in My Life

Requirement

- A. Spend a regular quiet time with Jesus to talk with Him and learn about Him.
- B. Ask three people why they pray.

Goal of this track

To facilitate the development of a growing and fruitful relationship between the child and Jesus Christ.

Concept Included in This Component

Prayer, Bible study, witness, living for Christ.

Objective of this component

Upon completion of the Adventurer requirements the children will:

- Know: how to build a growing relationship with God,
- Feel: the joy which comes from living for Him, and a determination to persevere, and
- Respond: by spending a quiet time with God and growing more like Him every day.

Background Information

If a child learns at an early age to set aside daily time for private devotions, and if helped to make this a habit, it will be easier to avoid that long, uphill battle that most Christians face in making a habit of "finding" time for God.

Because families have widely differing schedules and levels of commitment and because children have differing levels of ability and interest. The requirement leaves the frequency, length and format of these "quiet" times open. These factors can be decided upon by the child in consultation with a parent or leader, ranging from the ideal of daily morning and evening devotions to a minimum of weekly Sabbath, class, or club worship for those who are unable to participate in any other way. In the beginning, teach by example and help the child enjoy spending time with Jesus.

The prayer requirement encourages children to recognise and learn about the importance of prayer in the Christian life.

Teaching Tips

- A.
 - Present the importance of private devotions after the child has become acquainted with Jesus' love and plan for them. Establishing a habit of spending time with Jesus as a friend requires dedicated guidance and supervision from both parents and leaders.
 - The Adventurer leader can encourage private devotions in a number of ways.
 1. Share some personal experiences with private devotions.
 2. Talk of the benefits of a regular quiet time.
 3. Provide frequent occasions for children to discuss their experiences.

4. Frequently discuss times, places and methods for enjoying the quiet time.
5. Make available a wide variety of devotional reading material.
6. Help and encourage parents to assist their child in regular private (and family) devotions.

- Bible stories, texts and quotations:

Elijah on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18)
 Paul and Silas delivered (Acts 16:19-34)
 The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
 Psalm 95:6 - "Let us kneel before the Lord. . ."
 Psalm 145:18 - "The Lord is nigh unto all that call. . ."
 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "Pray without ceasing. . ."
 James 5:16 - "The effectual fervent prayer. . ."
 1 John 5:14,15 - "If we ask anything. . ."

"Teach them to look to God for strength. Tell them that He hears their prayers . . .Lead them to unite with God, and then they will have strength to resist the strongest temptation." (*Child Guidance*, pages 172, 173)

"In every Christian home God should be honoured by the morning and evening sacrifices of prayer and praise. Children should be taught to respect and reverence the hour of prayer." (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, page 110)

"Jesus knows the needs of children, and He loves to listen to their prayers. Let the children shut out the world and everything that would attract the thoughts from God; and let them feel that they are alone with God. . . Then, children, ask God to do for you those things that you cannot do for yourselves. Tell Jesus everything. . . When you have asked for the things that are necessary for your soul's good, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them." (*The Adventist Home*, page 299).

- Suggestions for Facilitating Children's Quiet times With Jesus

Because the children will normally be spending their quiet times at home, it is very important to enlist the parent's enthusiasm and cooperation in helping children choose and reach their goals. A letter may be drafted and sent home, but a better approach for arousing enthusiasm would be to plan a special parent meeting that is focused entirely upon helping children build the habit of regular personal Bible study and prayer. This meeting should include a time of sharing and discussion that will remind parents of the central importance of Bible study and prayer in the life of the Christian. Ideas and suggestions may be shared by leaders and parents as to how time can be set aside for family and personal worship, and what activities would be most meaningful for the Adventurer age group. Family worship with the Adventurer child should be active and fun.

Children's personal quiet times should be spent in a quiet place where they feel comfortable but not distracted. It may be based around the Sabbath School lesson, a Bible story book, or a simple passage of Scripture from a modern translation of the Bible. Children may enjoy drawing pictures, singing songs, writing verses, going for walks, or other creative activities that apply the Bible readings. These quiet times should always begin with a prayer of thanksgiving and petition, and end with a

consideration of how the material covered during the quiet time should affect the way the child chooses to behave.

Initially, a parent or other adult will need to join the child during the quiet time to help him or her read the Bible passage or story and to model and teach how to enjoy a meaningful quiet time with God. As the child becomes more independent and establishes positive habits of Bible study and prayer, the parent may decrease participation at a pace with which both the parent and child are comfortable.

1. Make worship a part of the family living pattern through sharing both spontaneous worship moments and scheduled family worship.
2. Set aside time for your own private devotions and help children become aware of the joy and strength they supply.
3. Help children establish a time for daily prayer from their earliest years. Bedtime is most common. It is particularly valuable for a father to take a few quiet moments with his children to talk over the day's experiences and then encourage them to talk to the Lord personally.
4. Guide the child in reading devotional literature on their own level as soon as the child's reading skills are developed to the point of ease and enjoyment. A modern language Bible may encourage a systematic program of Bible reading. An increasing number of devotional reading materials for children are available from the ABC and Christian book stores.
5. Try to start the evening bedtime rituals soon enough to allow for warm, intimate, companionable guidance in devotions without nagging the child to hurry.

B.

- The children or the leader may invite several adults to come and talk about their experiences with prayer. Keep them short (about 2-5 minutes). Afterwards, discuss the speaker's ideas.

Norm's Notes

The first part of this component in each class is the same, having to do with the Adventurer spending a quiet time with Jesus, to talk and learn about Him. The second part of the requirement varies with class:

Busy Bee	"Ask three people why they pray"
Sunbeam	"Ask three people why they study the Bible"
Builder	"Ask three people why they are glad to belong to Jesus"
Helping Hand	"Work with an adult to choose one thing in your life that you would like to improve. . ."

Notice the progression growth in spiritual life. Try to influence the children so that the first part of the requirement includes the growth that is there in the second part. Remind them that "talking and learning" means growth, when the person you are talking to is Jesus.

In your discussion while doing this requirement try to make sure that the children understand why people pray.

The material here is taken from pages 14, 19 and 43 - 45 of the printed manual.