

# P.U.S.H. LESSON 1

## **MAIN FOCUS**

*We can boldly approach the throne of God in prayer!*

## **POWER VERSE**

*"And we can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will."*

**1 John 5:14**

## **BIG IDEA**

*"Every Day When I Pray, I Know God Hears What I Say!"*

## **Leader's Info**

So often people are intimidated by the idea of praying to an Almighty God. They think they don't have the right words to say. Sometimes they even think they are not worthy to talk to God.

Too often, people buy into the lie that God doesn't really hear us when we pray. They believe that God is not interested in our everyday lives.

In this lesson, we will discuss how we can pray with confidence in knowing that God hears us when we pray. Not only does He hear us, but He will answer. Sometimes He answers "Yes," sometimes "No," and other times "Wait."

## ★ **LESSON INTRO VIDEO**

*"WHY DO YOU PRAY?"*

## ★ **PUPPET SKIT**

*DOES GOD REALLY HEAR US?*

## ★ **OFFERING TIME**

## ★ **PRAISE SONGS**

## ★ **SKITTLES VIDEO**

*POWER VERSE-"AND WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL LISTEN TO US WHENEVER WE ASK HIM FOR ANYTHING IN LINE WITH HIS WILL."*

*1 JOHN 5:14*

## ★ **GAME TIME**

*"BELIEVE IT? OR NOT!"*

## ★ **WORSHIP SONGS**

## ★ **ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE**

*"HOW TO PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE!"*

## ★ **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

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### **GAME TIME**

*"BELIEVE IT OR NOT!"*

### **WORSHIP SONGS**

### **ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE**

*"HOW TO PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE!"*

### **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

## **Order Of Service**

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## PUPPET SKIT

**Character:** Silly Willy is a hyperactive puppet that thrives on “scaring” the leaders/workers. *(You can use any puppet your kids are familiar with in your services.)*

**Leader:** What a cool subject to be talking about today, kids. Prayer is a really awesome...

*(Silly Willy makes noise by the puppet stage until finally the leader goes to check it out. Then, Silly Willy pops up and scares the leader and laughs about it.)*

**Leader:** Silly Willy! I can't believe you scared me like that!

**Silly Willy:** Me neither! You fall for that every time!

**Leader:** Well, not every time.

**Silly Willy:** Oh, yes, you do! Hey, kids, does she fall for it every time or what? (kids respond) See?

**Leader:** Well, OK, so maybe I do. But, I'm glad you're here today because we are starting a brand new series this week.

**Silly Willy:** Oh, cool! I love new stuff! So, what's it called?

**Leader:** “P.U.S.H.!”

**Silly Willy:** Push? What kind of name is that?

**Leader:** Well, that's not the whole name. It stands for “Pray Until Something Happens.”

**Silly Willy:** P.U.S.H., huh?

**Leader:** That's right!

**Silly Willy:** *(a little skeptical)* Pray until something happens, huh?

**Leader:** You got it!

**Silly Willy:** Well, then you're gonna be praying a long time.

**Leader:** What do you mean?

**Silly Willy:** I mean if you are going to pray until something happens, then you are going to be praying a long time because it doesn't work.

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## PUPPET SKIT (CONTINUED)

**Leader:** Doesn't work? What do you mean it doesn't work?

**Silly Willy:** I mean exactly what I said. Prayer doesn't work. I tried it once. It didn't work. God doesn't hear us when we pray.

**Leader:** Silly Willy! I am surprised at you. Why would you say that God doesn't hear us?

**Silly Willy:** Because one time, a long time ago, I prayed and asked God for something I really really wanted. I waited, and I waited, and I waited, and nothing ever happened. So, God obviously doesn't hear us when we pray.

**Leader:** Well, what was it that you prayed for?

**Silly Willy:** It doesn't matter! Nothing happened anyway!

**Leader:** Well, it does matter. What was it? Tell us.

**Silly Willy:** I don't want to talk about it.

**Leader:** C'mon, Silly Willy! We want to know. Don't you want to know what it was, kids?

**Silly Willy:** Well, OK....I asked for...a million pounds of chocolate! It didn't work! *(begins to break down sobbing)*

**Leader:** Well, Silly Willy, I know that you probably wanted that chocolate. But, a million pounds?

**Silly Willy:** You have not because you ask not!

**Leader:** Well, Silly Willy...did you ever stop to think that maybe God heard you, but His answer was "No?" You see, a million pounds of chocolate would be very bad for you. It would make you sick...maybe even kill you.

**Silly Willy:** Well, I don't want to die!

**Leader:** No, and God doesn't want you to die either. You see, just because we don't get exactly what we ask for doesn't mean that God is not listening. Sometimes His answer is "Yes," sometimes it is "No," and other times He just says, "Wait."

**Silly Willy:** You mean God heard me even though I didn't get the chocolate?

**Leader:** That's right! The Bible says that God hears us no matter what. Every time we pray, He hears us. BUT, we have to ask for things that are in His will, not our own.

# P.U.S.H. LESSON 1

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## PUPPET SKIT (CONTINUED)

**Silly Willy:** Oh. That's where I messed up.

**Leader:** It sure is. So, don't think that God doesn't hear you. You just have to ask according to HIS will. Can you do that?

**Silly Willy:** I sure can. No more silly selfish prayers. That means I can mark my other thing off the prayer list.

**Leader:** What was that?

**Silly Willy:** Two thousand gallons of MOUNTAIN DEW!!!!!!

**Leader:** Silly Willy!

**Silly Willy:** Goodbye, everybody!

**Leader:** Goodbye, Silly Willy! (*Silly Willy exits.*) You know, kids. That's a great lesson. You have to pray according to God's will. If God doesn't answer "Yes," He may be saying "No," or maybe "Wait." But, no matter what, we know that He hears us and He WILL answer!

# P.U.S.H. LESSON 1

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## GAME TIME

**"BELIEVE IT? OR NOT!"**

**Setup:** Our suggestion is that you "signal" it is game time not by saying "OK, so now it is time to play a game," but rather allowing the "Let's Play A Game" song (from the music CD provided) to be the audio signal. As soon as they hear the song interrupt you while you are talking, they will know they are about to experience one of the wildest games of their lives.



**Items Needed For Game:** The Data CD (*Lesson One* slideshow, beginning with title slide "Believe It ?Or Not!"), some sort of buzzer system (*optional*); If you are unable to use a computer with PowerPoint, please find the game questions on the next page.

**How To Play:** Choose three boys and three girls to compete. Each slide has a goofy statement that may be true (or false). The first one to "buzz in" and get the answer correct gets a point. If a contestant buzzes in first, but gets it wrong, the other team gets a point. The team to earn the most points during the game wins.

**At the end of the game say,** *"You know boys and girls, in life we have to make a lot of choices. We have to choose what's going to be important in our lives. Whatever we choose to make important, that's what is going to get done. Just like in this game, we had to choose whether or not to believe the statement. In life, we have to choose whether or not we will make prayer a priority in our lives. We MUST make the right choice. Prayer works! God wants to hear and answer our prayers. Make the right choice. Choose to make prayer the number one priority in your life."*

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## GAME TIME

**"BELIEVE IT? OR NOT!"**

For those unable to use PowerPoint for this game, the questions/statements used in the game are provided below.



1. Humans blink over 10 million times per year. Believe it or not? **(Believe It!)**
2. Every second, Americans eat more than one hundred pounds of chocolate. Believe it or not? **(Believe It!)**
3. A person uses close to 57 sheets of toilet paper per day. Believe it or not? **(Believe It!)**
4. There are approximately 120 house fires per year in the United States. Believe it or not? **(NOT! There is a house fire every 45 seconds!)**
5. Toenails grow faster than fingernails. Believe it or not? **(NOT!)**
6. Americans use more red toothbrushes than blue ones. Believe it or not? **(NOT!)**
7. The average American drinks about 600 cans of soft drink per year. Believe it or not? **(Believe it!)**
8. Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin. Believe it or not? **(Believe It!)**
9. Honeybees have hair on their eyeballs. Believe it or not? **(Believe It!)**
10. Blue whales sleep with one eye open. Believe it or not? **(NOT! But, dolphins do!)**

# P.U.S.H. LESSON 1

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## ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

### "PRAYING WITH CONFIDENCE"

**Materials Needed:** The Data CD; The DVD; a cell phone; large wooden cross; enough small pieces of paper and pens/pencils for each child in the room

**Preparation:** Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data CD titled "Lesson One," begin with the slide titled "The Power of Prayer." There is a slide for each point in the message. Cue the DVD to the segment titled "Can You Hear Me Now?"

### The Message: *(title slide)*

Today we are starting our new series called "P.U.S.H.: Pray Until Something Happens." Prayer is such a huge and important part of our lives. Prayer is when we have conversations with God. Every person who is a follower of Jesus should pray every chance he or she gets. But, did you know there are some people who really struggle with prayer?

It's true some people have real problems with prayer. Maybe they aren't sure what to say. Maybe they don't feel worthy. Today, we are talking about "How To Pray With Confidence." Our Power Verse today talks about having confidence when we pray. Do you know what confidence is? *(allow some students to respond)*

### Confidence = I Know That I Know That I Know *(slide)*

If you are confident about something it means that you have NO DOUBT about it. If you are confident in your friendship with someone, that means you know that you know that you know they will always be your friend no matter what. If you are confident before you take a math test, that means you know that you know that you know you're going to do well on that test.

If we are going to pray with confidence, then that means there are some things that we can know that we know that we know about prayer. Here are three of those things we can learn from our Power Verse today:

### 1. When We Pray, God Hears Us *(slide)*

That's right. Our Power Verse teaches us that God hears us every time we pray. *(hold up the cell phone)* Have you ever talked on a cell phone and had a hard time hearing the other person. Maybe there wasn't enough power bars or it was a bad reception area. That's frustrating, isn't it? It's kind of like the guy in this video...*(play "Can You Hear Me Now?" from the DVD)*.

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## ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

*(CONTINUED)*

Isn't that cool? We always know there are plenty of power bars to reach Heaven with our prayers. God is listening. He always hears us when we pray.

### 2. If He Hears Us, He Will Answer! *(slide)*

The second part of our Power Verse is just as important. It's one more thing we can know that we know that we know to help us pray with confidence. We know that we know that we know that God hears us...so we can know that we know that we know that if He hears us, He will answer.

Did you know that God always answers our prayers? It's true. I know some of you are saying, "No it's not. That one time I asked for a new pool for Christmas God didn't answer!" The truth is, God does always answer. However, He doesn't ALWAYS answer in the way that we want Him to. You see, sometimes we ask for things that are not what is best for us.

God always answers our prayers. Sometimes He answers, "Yes." Sometimes He answers, "No." Other times He answers, "Wait." He may want to do what we are asking, but it may not be God's perfect timing. Even though it may not always be the answer we want, we can know that we know that we know God ALWAYS answers our prayers.

### 3. We Must Pray For His Will To Be Done! *(slide)*

The most important part of our Power Verse this week is the last part. We can't just pray however we want for whatever we want. Our goal should be to pray according to what GOD wants for our lives. After all, He is the one who created us, so He knows exactly what we need.

The best example of this is Jesus. Just before He was arrested, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Knowing that He was going to be beaten and nailed to a cross, He prayed, "Father, if there is any way, don't let this happen to me." You see, He didn't want to be beaten and killed. But, He finished His prayer saying these words, "Nevertheless, not my will but Yours be done."

We must do the same thing. We all have things we want. We all have things we hope God will do. We must make a decision that our prayers will not be about what WE want, but about what GOD wants. We know that we know that we know we must pray according to His will.

### ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

*Give a piece of paper to each child. Have the children write the ONE thing they want to pray for during the remaining weeks of this series. Bring all of the requests and staple them to the wooden cross. Display the cross at the front of the room for the remainder of the series. At the end of each service, have the kids gather around and pray for all of the needs that are on the cross. At the end of the series, have the kids who have had their prayers answered give testimonies.*

# P.U.S.H. LESSON 1

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## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was today's Big Idea?

Answer: *Every Day, When I Pray, I Know God Hears What I Say!*

2. What did Silly Willy ask God for that he didn't receive?

Answer: *a million pounds of chocolate*

3. What was the name of the rapper on the Power Verse Video?

Answer: *Skittles*

4. What state was Skittles from?

Answer: *Idaho*

5. According to our Power Verse, does God hear us when we pray?

Answer: *Yes!*

6. What does it mean to have confidence?

Answer: *We know that we know that we know*

7. We know that God hears us, but we also know that if He hears us, He will \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Answer: *Answer*

8. We must pray according to God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: *will*

9. God always answers our prayers. Sometimes He says, "Yes", sometimes "No", and other times "\_\_\_\_\_."

Answer: *Wait*

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: *1 John 5:14*