THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: October 2, 2016

SUBJECT: GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Enosh

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4:25-26; Psalm 91:15-16

AIM: To help the children see that, like Enosh, we can also call on God's name in prayer.

SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Psalms 145:18a (Jehovah is near to all who call upon Him,...); Genesis 4:26 (And to Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of Jehovah.); Isaiah 12:4a (And you will say in that day, Give thanks to Jehovah; call upon His name!)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 24 (He's Able); 172 (Why Worry When We Can Pray); 52 (God is Always Near Me); 9308 BSS Daniel Song #8 (Behind the Scenes, the Heavens Rule); 153 (Obey His Call); 33 (When Your Fears Grow Mountain High); 3704 (God is with you); 171 (Whisper a Prayer); 135 (The Joy of the Lord is my Strength); 1013 (Always Rejoice)

SUGGESTED CRAFT: A rotating paper wheel showing different practical situations where the children could pray to the Lord (See attached template for sample).

Note to Teachers: Since the children are young and may not yet be regenerated, our presentation of "calling on the Lord" should not be according to an adult's understanding of calling on the Lord's name to contact Him in our spirit. Rather, this lesson should be at their level of encouraging them to pray using the Lord's name in a simple, prayerful way as mentioned in some of the examples below.

BACKGROUND:

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commandment, that same day, they were cut off from the tree of life and from the presence of God Himself. Man became weak without God and would one day die.

CONTENT:

Sometime after the murder of Abel and after Cain was driven out from God's presence, Adam and Eve had another son named Seth. Then when Seth grew up, he had a son whom he named *Enosh*. In the Hebrew language, the name *Enosh* means "frail, mortal man". This name *Enosh* shows us that by that time Seth and his family realized that man was a weak and frail creature that would one day die.

Because Enosh realized his own weakness and mortality, he sensed his great need for God. Enosh was the first man that called upon the name of the Lord.

In the Old Testament time, people cried out to the Lord for help in distress, in times of trouble, sorrow and pain. They also shared their joys with the Lord. They knew He was near, merciful, and ready to forgive, and that their call would be answered (Psalm 50:15; 86:5; 116:2-4; 118:5). God wanted man to call upon Him. God wanted man to know Him and realize that He was able to help them (Psalm 91:15-16).

In the New Testament time, as we call upon Him in prayer, the Lord helps us in all of our weaknesses and takes care of all our needs. We should also remember to tell Him all our joys.

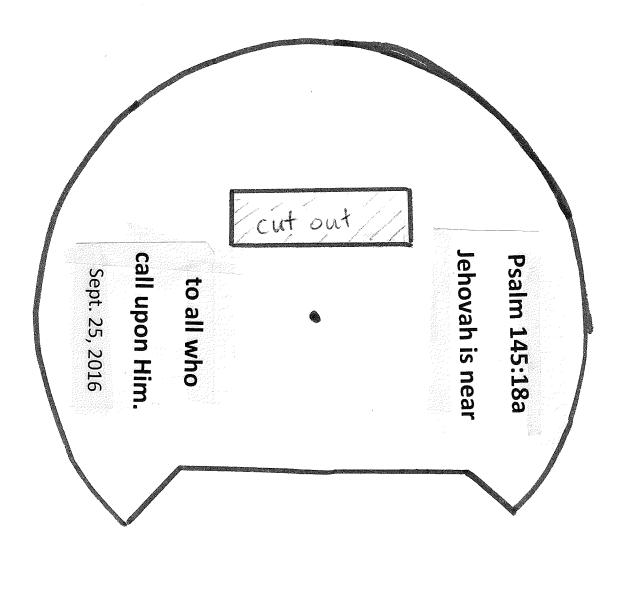
SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

Note to Teachers: Please do not try to cover all the applications. As the Lord leads, please pray and fellowship over which points to cover depending on the age group of the children.

Like Enosh, we can call on the name of the Lord in prayer. When we pray to the Lord Jesus:

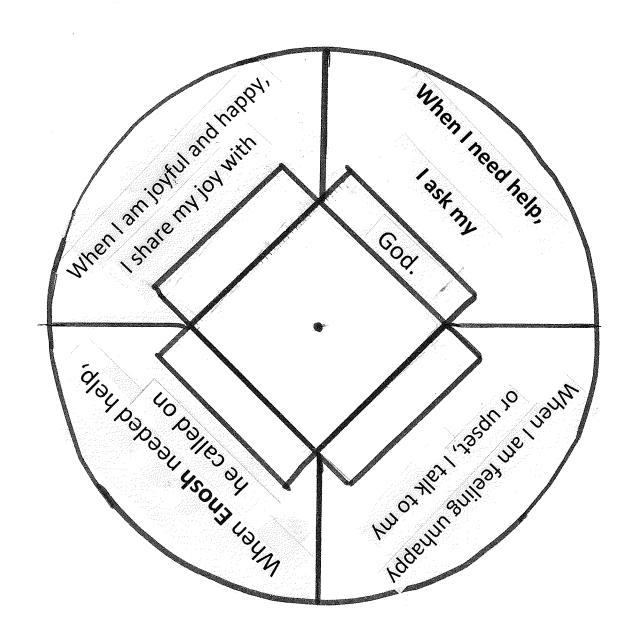
- He is very near to us. Jehovah is near to all who call upon Him (Psalms 145:18a). Ask the children, Who is the first person you call out to when you are afraid, or hurt, or in trouble, or even excited and happy over something? Perhaps the children might call "Mommy!", "Daddy!", "Grandma!", "Grandpa!" What about when they are at school? Perhaps they might call the teacher. But sometimes Mommy, Daddy or the teacher is not right there, or they cannot hear you or come to you right away. Only the Lord is always right there where you are and can always hear you. Even when it is dark, or when you are alone, or when Mommy or Daddy are far away. When you call on the Lord Jesus He is there already. He is ready to help you. What a friend we have in Jesus!
- **He rescues us from distress.** *In my distress I called upon Jehovah and cried out to my God. He heard my voice from His temple and my cry before Him came to His ears (Psalms 18:6).* Have you ever been afraid? When we are frightened, maybe by a thunder and lightning storm, or when we are alone in the dark, we can pray "Lord Jesus, help me, I'm scared." Since He is near us and always with us, He hears us and can help us not be afraid.
- He rescues us from trouble. And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you, and you will glorify Me (Psalms 50:15). When we find ourselves in any kind of trouble, or are experiencing any kind of problem, at home, school, or anywhere, we can pray, "Lord Jesus, I need You, please help me to solve my problem." He can help us in any kind of trouble and help us solve any kind of problem.
- He rescues us from sorrow and pain. ... I fell upon trouble and sorrow. But I called upon the name of Jehovah... (Psalms 116:3b-4a). When we call the Lord's name in prayer, "Lord Jesus, help me not be sad," He can comfort us whenever we feel sorrowful.
- We can be thankful for all the good things from Him. And you will say in that day, Give thanks to Jehovah; call upon His name! (Isaiah 12:4a). We should tell the Lord not only our troubles and sorrows, but also call on the Lord in prayer to tell Him our joys. Ask the children for examples about what makes them happy. Examples of some big and small things that might make the children happy: perhaps their mom just had a new baby, grandparents or relatives visiting, a friend coming over to play, doing well on a school test, getting a nice present from someone, getting new clothes or shoes, going to the playground, going on vacation, etc.

Adapted from the Church in New York City's Children's Meeting lessons: 10/10/93; 9/26/99; 9/25/05; 9/25/11; *Calling on the Lord* by Witness Lee.



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