

# Midnight Meetup Lesson Plan

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Kids can enjoy their own “midnight” meetup, complete with blankets, cookies, and lots of prayer! Use this plan in a children’s ministry, Christian school, or homeschool classroom to connect children with a historic prayer meeting and to give them an opportunity to practice praying themselves.



## LEVEL

Children ages 4 to 9

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Revival  
Prayer  
Bullying  
Friendship  
Orphans  
Germany  
19th-Century History  
Matthew 21 (The Triumphal Entry/Palm Sunday)

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## SUPPLIES

Flashlights, battery-operated camping lanterns, battery-operated candles  
Pillows and blankets  
Small cookies  
Printable prayer cards (see <https://fritzandthemidnightmeetup.com/>)  
Pens or pencils  
*Fritz and the Midnight Meetup*

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## FOR THE TEACHER

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on the Sunday before His crucifixion, the voices of children welcomed Him. And despite the objections of the priests and scribes, Jesus received the kids’ praises and affirmed their value, quoting Psalm 8: “Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise” (see Matthew 21:12–17 ESV).

Just as Jesus loved to hear the prayers and praises of children during His earthly ministry, He still loves to hear them today. As you encourage the children in your classroom to come to God in prayer—offering their worship and their requests—you can remind them that the Lord delights to hear them.

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## OBJECTIVE

Help children understand the power and privilege of prayer by reading a true story about a children’s prayer meeting in 1860 and then participating in a “midnight” prayer meeting of their own.

## WELCOME TIME (5–10 minutes)

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Set up one area of the room with pillows and blankets on the floor. Have a tray of cookies hidden away.

As children come in, have flashlights and battery-operated lights on the table. Let the children practice turning them on and off and shining them on various objects around the room.

Talk about times they have used flashlights in the past, and invite them to share stories about fun things they've done after dark.

Put the flashlights away, but tell the children they'll use them again later.

## STORY TIME (5–10 minutes)

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Gather the children, and read Matthew 21:16: "And Jesus said . . . 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise.'" Tell the children that Jesus is saying that He loves when kids pray.

Then read aloud *Fritz and the Midnight Meetup*, showing the pictures on each page.

After the story is finished, tell the children that it was based on a true story. There really was an orphanage. There really was a children's midnight meetup. There really was a bully. And he really did come to love Jesus.

Then, ask the children to reflect on their own experiences of prayer:

- Who do you pray to? (God)
- What is prayer? (talking to God)
- When are some times you pray? (mealtimes, bedtime, family worship/devotions, church services, etc.)
- Who are some people you pray with? (family members, Sunday school teachers, church members, etc.)
- What are some things you pray about? (physical healing, people's salvation, praise to God, forgiveness of sins, etc.)
- What are some ways you have seen God answer prayer? (physical healing, people's salvation, monetary provision, etc.)

Remind the children of Matthew 21:16 and tell them the Bible promises that God hears us when we pray and He answers our prayers by doing what is best for us.

## PRAYER TIME (20–25 minutes)

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Move to the table, and hand out pens or pencils and prayer cards. Read each card, and help the children fill in the blanks with their prayer requests. Older children may be able to write the requests themselves; younger children may need someone to write down what they say.

Once everyone has completed their cards, tell the children you are going to have a "midnight" meetup, just like the children in the orphanage.

Dim the room lights, and hand a flashlight or battery-operated light to each child. Invite the children to bring their prayer cards to the area with the blankets and pillows and to find a spot. Collect the flashlights, and place them together at the front to be a "fireplace."

Tell the children you are now going to have a time of prayer. Tell them that you will start by praying the verse on each card, and they can then take turns praying the item on that card out loud if they want. (Younger children may need help to remember what they wrote on their cards.)

Say: Adoration: “There is none like you, O LORD; you are great. . .”—Jeremiah 10:6

Children take turns praying.

Say: Confession: “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love . . . and cleanse me from my sin.”—Psalm 51:1-2)

Children take turns praying.

Say: Thanksgiving: “I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.”—Psalm 9:1

Children take turns praying.

Say: Intercession: “Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.”—Psalm 28:9

Children take turns praying.

Say: Supplication: “Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”—Psalm 30:10

Children take turns praying.

Close the time of prayer by thanking God for hearing and answering the prayers of children.

## SNACK TIME (5–10 minutes)

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After the children finish praying, bring out the tray of cookies and pass one out to each child.

While they eat, allow the children to reflect on their “midnight” meetup.

Ask:

- What did you like about praying with your friends?
- How do you think God might answer your prayers?
- When could you use your prayer cards again?

## DISMISS

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As the children leave, assure them that you will be praying for them over the coming days.