

# *Club Maccabee* **Handbook Samples**

For

**Year Three : *Conquering the Land***

**הָאָרֶץ \ The Land**

**(Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel)**

## Acknowledgements

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We want to also thank Claire Sherman for her suggestion of using memory cards and Carrie Mercer for her suggestions and advice.

Special thanks also goes to Rabbi Barry Budoff for allowing us to use portions of his Siddur for our Children's Siddur.

In this Handbook we quote from several versions of the Scriptures: New American Standard Bible (NASB), New International Version (NIV), The Stone Edition Tanach (Stone), JPS Tanakh (JPS), Jewish New Testament (JNT) and the Soncino Press Pentateuch & Haftorahs (Soncino).

Finally, and most importantly, we thank God for our Messiah Yeshua, by whose death we have received life!

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# Club Maccabee Year Three Samples

## LESSON 3 - THE FALL OF JERICHO

<b>Scripture:</b>	Joshua 5:13 - 6:27
<b>Theme:</b>	Trust in God's power!
<b>Memory Verses:</b>	Joshua 6:2      The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I will deliver Jericho...into your hands". (JPS)  Hebrews 11:30a By faith the walls of Jericho fell down... (NASB)
<b>Hebrew Words:</b>	קִיר                      (kir)                      wall אֱמוּנָה                      (e-moo-nah)                      faith

### Lessons with Natan/Rivka

*We will spend the next 15 Jewish Education Lessons focusing on the development and history of the modern State of Israel. As Joshua led the people to conquer and possess Canaan it is important to teach them that God has led the Jewish people, in our time, back to possess and occupy the Land of Israel. It is important **not** to use these lessons politically regarding the current conflict with the Arab world, but to teach **from a positive perspective** regarding how God has protected Israel and provided for them. Much of this material is from **A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to our Time** by Howard M. Sachar, Published by Alfred A.Knopf, Inc., New York 1979.*

### **Modern Jewish History #1: Overview from 70 CE to the 1800's CE**

*Props: Use a map of Europe and Israel to show the children the different countries mentioned. You can find pictures on the web by searching at [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and [www.us-israel.org/jsource](http://www.us-israel.org/jsource)*

**Big Idea to get across** – Jewish people have been scattered around the world for 2,000 years!

Two thousand years ago most Jewish people lived in the Land of Israel. They had their own cities, their own leaders and in the city of Jerusalem they had their own Temple to worship God. Although they had this freedom they also were part of the Roman Empire which meant that they couldn't do everything they wanted. Messiah Yeshua was born around this time. Yeshua came as our promised Jewish Messiah and to die for our sins. Because many of the leaders of the Jewish people didn't accept him, he prophesied that the city of Jerusalem would be conquered by the Gentiles and the Holy Temple of God would be destroyed. A few years after Messiah Yeshua returned to heaven, some of the leaders of the Jewish people decided to rebel against the Roman Empire. Because of this there was a big war, and in 70 CE all that Messiah Yeshua said about the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple of God happened. Most Jewish people left Israel.

Since this destruction two thousand years ago, Jewish people have scattered all over the world. Many Jewish people first were scattered to Babylonia which is near modern day Iraq and Iran. After many years Jewish people were again persecuted and had to flee Babylonia. But God was watching over them and they found safety in a land called Spain. Unfortunately this did not last either and they were told that had to stop being Jewish or they had to leave Spain. Most of these Jewish people fled and made their way to Muslim countries for safety. Eventually most Jewish people lived either in Eastern Europe or in North Africa by the beginning of the 1880's. They were not happy in these countries because they were still treated badly by the local people. But God had not forgotten His Jewish people and soon things would begin to change for them.

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## Lesson 3 Midrash (Scripture Study)

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**Scripture:** Joshua 5:13 - 6:27

**Theme:** Trust in God's power!

**Introduction:** Bring a shofar (ram's horn) and some alcohol swabs. Ask the students if they know how to blow a shofar. Have someone present who can blow the shofar and teach the children. After each person blows, wipe the tip with an alcohol swab. Ask, "Could shouts and shofar blasts make a wall come down?"

### Summary of Story:

**Visual Aids:** Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky Scene with Green Hillside Overlay, S4, S8-9  
Flannelgraph Figures: S14, 28, 37, 39, 46, 51, 87, 90, 91, 204, 328  
Additional Props: bring a picture of Jericho or another walled city and a small piece of red yarn

Jericho was a huge walled city. Dirt was piled up into a huge mound, many times the height of a man, leading up to a large stone wall. How could the Israelites possibly destroy such a massive city on a hill with a stone wall?

God sent a special messenger to Joshua. (**add 28, 46**) Joshua saw him as a man with a sword. Joshua was afraid he was an enemy, but the man said, "No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD!" Joshua bowed to the ground and the special messenger told him how to defeat Jericho. Joshua would not defeat Jericho with the power of his army, but with the miracles of the LORD.

God told Joshua to have all the troops march all the way around the city one time each day for six days. The Ark of the Covenant was to go before the people, and seven priests with seven ram's horns were to go before the Ark. On the seventh day, the people were to march around the city seven times and then shout. God said that the wall would come down and the troops were then to go straight into the city to conquer it. (**remove 46 and 54**)

Joshua did as God commanded. Early each morning for six days, the Israelites marched around the city. (**remove S4; add S14, 37, 39 carrying**

**328, 51, 87, 90, 91, and 204 next to S14**) Seven priests marched before the Ark blowing seven ram's horns. The people followed, but Joshua had told them to not make a sound until he commanded it. They marched around the city and then returned to their camp each night for six days.

On the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times. Then Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you this city." The people shouted and the horns were blown, and the wall fell down. The people ran into the city and killed everyone in it. The only people who were allowed to live were Rahab and her family because she had helped the spies. (**have the small piece of red yarn hang from the wall of piece 204**) The city was burned, but the silver, gold, copper and iron were set aside for the LORD and were put into the treasury of the Tabernacle.

Then Joshua made an oath. He said that whoever tried to rebuild the city would lose his first born son when he put down the foundation and lose his youngest son when he set up the gates. (See 1 Kings 16:34 for the fulfillment of this oath.) The Israelites were able to conquer Jericho because of God's miracles and not their own strength.

### Challenge:

Many times God's way of doing something is different than our way. God says, "Love your enemies. Be humble. Give to others." We usually say, "Get even! Be proud! Look out for yourself first!" Will you trust God's way? Doing things God's way can bring down walls in the lives of people around you.

## LESSON 4 - THE FALL OF AI

<b>Scripture:</b>	Joshua 7:1-8:35		
<b>Theme:</b>	You can't fool God!		
<b>Memory Verses:</b>	Joshua 8:34a	After that, he read all the words of the Torah, the blessing and the curse... (ArtScroll)	
	Luke 11:28b	...blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it. (NASB)	
<b>Hebrew Words:</b>	תּוֹרָה	(to-rah)	instruction
	דָּבָר	(da-var)	word

### Lessons with Natan/Rivka

#### Modern Jewish History #2: Theodore Hertzl and the Rise of Zionism

*Props: Use a map of Europe and Israel to show the children the different countries mentioned. You can find pictures on the web by searching at [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and [www.us-israel.org/jsource](http://www.us-israel.org/jsource)*

**Big Idea to get across** – God used Theodore Hertzl to build a movement for Zionism

By the early 1800's the continent of Europe was going through some very big changes (about 75% of all the Jewish people in the world lived in Europe at that time). For Jewish people living in Western Europe, in England, France and Germany, there were the beginnings of more independence and freedom. Meanwhile, Jewish People living in Eastern Europe, in Russia, Poland and Romania, found their conditions to be worse off than ever. To the people living in the West they thought they would no longer be treated unfairly just because they were Jewish. They began to live freely, get jobs with the government, and they began to assimilate, which means to lose their Jewish identity. They also began to forget about returning to Israel.

For the Jewish people in Eastern Europe life was very hard. The Czar (King) of Russia especially was very cruel to them and they were always hungry and afraid of what their Gentile neighbors would do to them. They could only live in certain areas called the "Pale of Settlement" or in special parts of cities called ghettos. Since they were not able to live where they wanted or work in whatever job they wanted they were forced to stick together so their Jewish identity became more and more important to them. They also began to think all the time about returning to Israel where they could be free. The people began to call this desire "Zionism" and some of them began to make plans to return to the Land of Israel.

By the end of the 1800's the European Jewish communities were all very discouraged. Whether you were from the West or the East, anti-Semitism continued to make Jewish life very hard. God raised up a Jewish journalist from Vienna named Theodore Herzl to help. He invited Jewish people to come to a special meeting in a place called Basle, Switzerland in the summer of 1897, and 204 delegates from all over the world came. They called it the First Zionist Congress and they began to make plans for setting up a modern State of Israel. Herzl traveled all over Europe meeting with Jewish and Gentile leaders to build support for Jewish people who wanted to leave Europe and go to Israel. It was very hard because assimilated Jewish people didn't want to leave Europe and many Gentiles didn't want to do anything to help a Jewish cause. As Theodore Herzl traveled he found support from common Jews all over Europe and these people worked hard to build organizations, clubs and agencies to plan, fund and build new Jewish life in the Land of Israel. All this activity wore on Theodore Herzl and at just the age of 44 he died in 1904. Yet only 44 years later his dream of a Jewish State would be realized due in large part to his hard work and passion. Theodore Herzl's body today is buried outside Jerusalem on a hill called Mount Herzl in the modern State of Israel.

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## Lesson 4 Midrash (Scripture Study)

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**Scripture:** Joshua 7:1-8:35

**Theme:** You can't fool God!

**Introduction:** Select one student to be a leader and say, "Today, you get to be the boss. Think of three unusual things to command the whole class to do." While he or she is thinking, take the other students aside. Whisper, "No matter what the leader says to do, just stand frozen like a statue." Afterwards, ask the leader, "How did it feel **not** to be obeyed? How do you think God feels when people don't obey?"

### Summary of Story:

**Visual Aids:** Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky; Green Hillside Overlay; S6, S8-9, S14, 207  
Flannelgraph Figures: 21 Facing Right, 29, 79, 88, 102, 106a, 108, 109, 273

The Israelites were rejoicing. They had defeated Jericho. The huge walls that had seemed so mighty were thrown down. Only, the people didn't destroy Jericho by their own power but by God's. God told them they could not keep any of the treasure from the city.

But people can easily become greedy for money and riches. So a man named Achan stole from Jericho some silver and gold. Now Joshua didn't know about this great sin.

The Israelites were ready for their next attack, on a smaller town called Ai. They thought this battle would be no big deal, so they didn't send many soldiers. Only, this time, God didn't help them and they lost.

When Joshua heard what had happened, he tore his clothes and prayed to the Lord. Had the Lord failed Israel? No, God said that he didn't help because someone had sinned. God told Joshua to line up all the families of Israel and he would show them who the thief was. (**put 29 on the right, 21, 79, 88, 102, 106a, 108 and 109 on left**) First God showed them that the thief was from Judah. Then he showed them the thief was from the Zerahite clan. Then he showed them he was from the family of Zabdi. Finally, he showed them the thief was

Achan. (**move 79 [Achan] close to 29 [Joshua]**)

Joshua asked Achan to admit what he did. Achan confessed and said that he sinned against God and coveted the silver and gold and took them. (**add some 273**) Achan would have to die for disobeying God at such a serious time. His whole family and even his animals were stoned to death in the Valley of Achor. The gold and silver were buried with him.

After that, God told Joshua to take his troops and attack Ai again. This time he would now help them to conquer the city. Joshua sent thirty thousand soldiers to hide near the city. Then early in the morning Joshua and the rest of the troops marched to Ai. When the men of Ai attacked them, the Israelites pretended to run away. The men of Ai left the city and ran after them, but the soldiers who were hiding snuck into the city and destroyed it. Then the soldiers from Ai were trapped between the two groups of Israelites, and they were all killed. This time God allowed the Israelites to keep the plunder from the city.

Then Joshua built an altar to the LORD and read "all the words of the Torah, the blessing and the curse..." to the people. It is very important to know what God's word says and to obey it.

### Challenge:

Ask, "Does everyone who breaks one of God's commandments die right away? When does God's judgment come?" Talk about God's mercy and how Yeshua died in our place so that we won't have to die like Achan did.

## LESSON 5 - ISRAEL AND THE GIBEONITES

<b>Scripture:</b>	Joshua 9:1-9:27		
<b>Theme:</b>	Seek Wisdom from God!		
<b>Memory Verses:</b>	Joshua 9:14	The men took their word because of their provisions, and did not inquire of the LORD. (JPS)	
	James 1:5	But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God...and it will be given to him. (NASB)	
<b>Hebrew Words:</b>	אֵצֶל	(e-tzel)	near, beside (preposition)
	חִכְמָה	(chok-mah)	wisdom

### Lessons with Natan/Rivka

#### Modern Jewish History #3: Early Jewish Immigration to Israel: 1880 to 1920

*Props: Use a map of Europe and Israel to show the children the different countries mentioned. You can find pictures on the web by searching at [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and [www.us-israel.org/jsource](http://www.us-israel.org/jsource)*

**Big Idea to get across** – Life was very hard for the early Zionists who moved to Israel

Israel by 1880 had only a few thousand Jewish people living in the Land, and most of them were very poor. The Ottoman Empire (modern day Turkey) ruled the Land of Israel and they were not too happy about having lots of Jewish people come to build a new Jewish State. Jewish people were coming anyway and they came from all over Europe, but mostly from Eastern Europe and especially Russia. Life was very hard for these people but they were determined to stay and to make the land a new home for themselves and for other Jewish people. They were called **חִלּוּצִים** (Chalutzim) which means “Pioneers”!

The story is told of one man named Reb Yossef who helped to found the city of Hadera in Israel. He came from a small town in Ukraine where he had been a wealthy businessman. In 1891 he made the decision to take his family and go to Israel to live and farm the land. He brought all of his family and his most prized possession: a Torah Scroll. The trip was long and hard but he cared for that Torah like it was a baby. When they arrived they purchased some land in the new settlement of Hadera. When they finally reached their new land he quickly transformed an old building into their new synagogue and carefully set up an Ark for his precious Torah Scroll.

In Hadera, Reb Yossef found something that became as precious to him as his Scroll: the soil. He became attached to it with all of his heart. From then on there were two things sacred to him: the Scroll and the Land. How precious the Land was to him, and how sacred; for this was where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had lived. It was the Land that God had given the Jewish People!

The family of Reb Yossef worked hard. They opened a small restaurant to feed people as they traveled, they worked the Land, and they raised their family. They were full of optimism and hope for the future. But life was very hard for these early settlers in Israel. There were fights with the Arab population and fights with disease. Many of these early settlers died. Reb Yossef himself fell victim to yellow fever and died, as did his wife and most of his family. In Hadera today there are many Jewish people on the Land which Reb Yossef loved, but none of them are his children or grandchildren. He has only one “family” member left in Hadera, and it is his Torah Scroll which he brought with great care from Ukraine.

(Taken from **The Fall and Rise of Israel** by William L. Hull, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI 1955, Pages 103-107)

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## Lesson 5 Midrash (Scripture Study)

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**Scripture:** Joshua 9:1-9:27

**Theme:** Seek Wisdom from God!

**Introduction:** Bring a Rubik's Cube or some other complicated maze game to class. Blindfold a volunteer and ask them to solve the game. After they try for a while or protest, point out that with the right instructions you can do the game, even blindfolded. Point out that following the right instructions always makes difficult decisions easier.

### Summary of Story:

**Visual Aids:** Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky; Green Hillside Overlay; S6, S8-9, S14, 207  
Flannelgraph Figures: 18, 21 Facing Left, 29, 89, 153, 214, 251, 276

One time the Israelites got into trouble because they didn't ask for God to show them what to do. The cities all over Canaan were afraid because they knew that God had given the Israelites victory in every battle. So they all made plans to fight Israel, all except for one very smart city called Gibeon.

The Gibeonites knew that God had told the Israelites to kill all the people in the Land of Canaan. So they pretended to come from a far away land. They made disguises using worn out clothes and worn out sandals. They put old worn out sacks on their donkeys and carried old wineskins that were cracked and patched up. **(add 89, 153 pulling 214 with 276 on 153)** The bread they took was old, dry and crumbly. **(add 251 into hand of one of 89)** All these worn out things made it look like they had been traveling a long time from a place far away from Canaan.

**(add 29)** The Gibeonites went to Joshua and said to him and the men of Israel, **(add 18, 21)** "We came from far away and would like to make an agreement with you." Joshua said,

"But maybe you live near us, then how can we make an agreement with you?" They said, "No, we came a long way because we heard of your God. Look at our old clothes and old food. Everything was new when we started on our trip?" The Israelites "accepted their story, but they did not ask for the word of the LORD." Joshua agreed not to kill them. **(remove 18, 21, 153, 214, 251, 276)**

Three days later, the Israelites found out that the men really were neighbors and had tricked them. So they set out for the Gibeonite towns, but they did not attack them because of their agreement. **(have 29 stand close to 89)** Joshua said to the leaders of the towns, "Why did you deceive us? Now you will be cursed. Your descendants will always be slaves. They will cut wood and draw water for the house of the LORD."

The Israelites sinned by not asking the LORD for wisdom before they made an agreement with Gibeon. But God was merciful and allowed the Gibeonites to live and did not punish Israel.

### Challenge:

Ask, "Where are God's instructions found? If you have to make a big decision in life, is there any place you can get instructions and help?" Talk to the children about the importance of prayer, asking God for wisdom. Also stress that reading the Bible helps us learn how to live life God's way.



## LESSON 6 - THE SUN STANDS STILL

<b>Scripture:</b>	Joshua 10:1-43						
<b>Theme:</b>	God does amazing things!						
<b>Memory Verses:</b>	Joshua 10:13b ...So the sun stood in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to set for a whole day. (ArtScroll)  Matthew 21:22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. (NIV)						
<b>Hebrew Words:</b>	<table><tr><td>תְּפִלָּה</td><td>(te-fillah)</td><td>prayer</td></tr><tr><td>יוֹם</td><td>(yom)</td><td>day</td></tr></table>	תְּפִלָּה	(te-fillah)	prayer	יוֹם	(yom)	day
תְּפִלָּה	(te-fillah)	prayer					
יוֹם	(yom)	day					

### Lessons with Natan/Rivka

#### **Modern Jewish History #4: The Modern State of Israel is Born: 1920 to 1948**

*Props: Use a map of Europe and Israel to aid in the teaching. More information is available about the establishment of the State of Israel at [www.us-israel.org/jsource/History/dectoc.html](http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/History/dectoc.html).*

**Big Idea to get across** –The modern State of Israel was established with God’s help

Many more Jewish people began to move to the land of Israel. The land was officially called *Palestine* by most people but to Jewish people it always has been known as *Israel*. By 1920 there were approximately 50,000 Jewish people living in Israel with many more coming every month. The British were in control of the Land as they had beaten the Ottoman Empire in World War I and had promised that they would help to bring about a Jewish State soon. This promise was called the Balfour Declaration. In the early part of the 1900’s many of the leaders of the British Empire were friendly toward Jewish people, and several Zionists were very influential in British history at this time as well. After Theodore Herzl passed away, the leader of the Jewish people was a man from Russia called Chaim Weizman. He was a brilliant leader, teacher and chemist. He had helped the British during World War I and he influenced the British to help Jewish people.

Even though the British promised to help set up a Jewish State they had a lot of pressure from the Arab countries not to do it. Little by little they were influenced to put off their promise and to make smaller the size of the land that would be set aside for the Jewish People. Also many of the British leaders who were friendly to Israel began to be replaced by leaders who were not friendly. They felt that it would be better for Britain to support the many Arabs than to help the few Jews. Of course this made the Jewish people already living in Israel very upset. Chaim Weizman continued to work hard outside of Israel to change the minds of the British but he didn’t make much progress. He also asked the United States to help Israel.

The dark days of World War II did little to help the situation in Israel for the Jewish People. The Nazi’s had come to power in Germany and soon they had captured most of Europe. They began to do very bad things to the Jewish people living under their control and many, many Jewish people died. This was a very bad time and Jewish people remember this time as the Shoah or Holocaust. Six million Jewish people died in Europe. After the war almost all of the Jewish people in Europe wanted to leave and go to Israel but the British wouldn’t let them. Only a few people were able to go legally and many more tried to sneak in. The Jewish people living in Israel began to fight against the British and many people died. After 2 years the British decided to leave and allow Israel to become its own country. On May 14<sup>th</sup> 1948 (5<sup>th</sup> of Iyyar 5708) the Modern State of Israel was born and Chaim Weizman was selected to be Israel’s first President. By this time there were almost 600,000 Jewish people living in the Land of Israel.

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## Lesson 6 Midrash (Scripture Study)

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**Scripture:** Joshua 10:1-43

**Theme:** God does amazing things!

**Introduction:** Bring a book about the solar system. Talk to the children about the size of the sun and the earth (the sun's diameter is 865,000 miles and more than a million earth-sized planets could fit inside). Talk about the great distance between the sun and earth (93 million miles). Ask, "What kind of power would it take to move the sun?"

### Summary of Story:

**Visual Aids:** Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky; Green Hillside Overlay; S8-9, 204  
Flannelgraph Figures: 28, 29, 30, 41, 46, 49, 50, 88, 175, 197A, 284

The Israelites were starting to conquer the Land as God had promised. The other kings in the area were afraid. **(add 41, 49, 50)** The king of Jerusalem asked four other kings to join him and make one big army to destroy the Israelites. Before they attacked Israel they attacked Gibeon because the people of Gibeon had made a treaty with the Israelites.

The people of Gibeon sent a message to Joshua asking for help. They said, "Come quickly and help us because the Amorite kings of the hill country have gathered together against us." The LORD told Joshua not to be afraid because He would help Joshua to conquer the kings. God had made the walls of Jericho come down, so Joshua was not afraid. He believed that God was big enough to help him no matter what the problem was.

Joshua marched with the army of Israel to Gibeon and attacked the five kings. **(add 29, 46)** The Israelites were defeating them. God helped by sending huge hailstones that killed the soldiers of the five kings. **(add 284; show 49 & 50 falling)** But night was coming soon and Joshua's armies were not finished defeating the five kings.

Then something happened unlike anything ever before. Joshua prayed a prayer that seems impossible. **(remove 49, 50, 284 then switch 29 for 30)** He asked God to stop the sun and moon and make the day last longer. Could God do something that big?

Because Joshua and Israel were so important to God, the prayer was answered. The sun and moon stopped for a whole day. **(remove 30 and 46; add 175)** Joshua's armies killed every last soldier of the armies of the five kings. But the five kings themselves got away and hid in a cave. **(put 41 behind 197a; add 28 & 88)**

Joshua found the cave and captured the kings. The kings were mighty men and some of the Israelites were afraid of them, but Joshua said, "Do not be afraid because this is what the LORD will do to all the enemies that you fight against." Then Joshua had the kings put to death, and their bodies were left in the cave.

Of all the prayers in the Bible, this prayer of Joshua is one of the most amazing. Joshua had faith that a big God could do big things.

### Challenge:

Ask, "Would God make the sun and moon stand still if I prayed it?" Explain that God is the King and He decides whether to say "yes", "no", or "wait" to our prayers. Challenge the children to pray for the things they need. Explain that God hears the prayers of those who seek Him and that we can help others who have a need by praying for them. Encourage them that it's right to pray big prayers to God because God is big enough to answer all of our prayers according to His will.