

PrayKids!

ADVENTURES WITH JESUS IN PRAYER

The Word On...

“Jesus Prayed”

While He was on earth, **Jesus prayed** all the time. Every prayer **Jesus prayed** was right on target. He knew how to listen and got all of His instructions straight from God the Father (John 5:19, 8:28). His prayers were full of power and He got answers. When **Jesus prayed**, people were even raised from the dead!

Wouldn't you love to know what **Jesus prayed**, when He prayed, how He prayed, and why? If you want to grow in prayer, you can look at the way **Jesus prayed** and learn a lot. So get ready to go on a learning adventure with Jesus! ★

Something in Common

Jesus is God, right? Of course He is! Well, here's a brainteaser for you: the Bible says that **Jesus prayed**—a lot! But since Jesus is God, does

that mean that when He prayed He was talking to Himself?

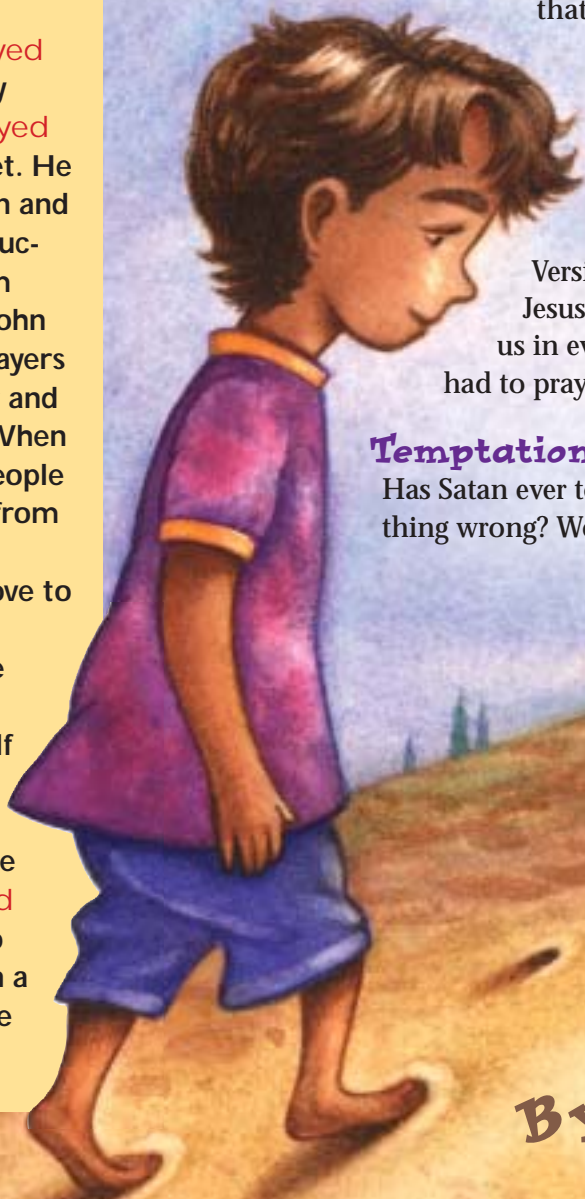
Are you stumped? Don't worry—that was a trick question. Jesus was not talking to Himself!

John 1:14 says that Jesus “became a human and lived among us” (New Century Version). Even though He was God, Jesus became human and was just like us in every way. That means that He had to pray for the same reasons we do.

Temptation

Has Satan ever tempted you to do something wrong? Well guess what? He tried to

continued on page 2



By Brenda Poinsett

Thanks for the Prayers!

Do you know that **Jesus prayed** for you the night before He died?

At the last supper, **Jesus prayed** for His disciples' protection. Then He went on to pray a surprising thing. He prayed for everyone who would believe in Him in the future (John 17:20-26). Guess what? If you believe in Him, that includes you!

It's wonderful to know that Jesus had *you* in mind when He prayed 2,000 years ago. But it gets even better. Now that Jesus is in heaven, He hasn't stopped praying for you! Hebrews 7:25 says that Jesus has a permanent position before God where He lives forever to plead with Him on our behalf (New Living Translation).

I can't think of anyone I'd rather have praying for me than Jesus, can you? Why not stop right now and tell Him, "Thanks for the prayers, Jesus!" ★

(continued from page 1)

tempt Jesus even more! Luke

4:13 says the devil "tempted Jesus in every way" (New Century Version).

He tried to get Jesus not to die on the cross. He even tried to get Jesus to worship him!

How did Jesus keep from falling into these sin-traps? The same way you do: by praying! Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days (Matthew 4:1-3). Another time He climbed a mountain alone to pray late at night (Matthew 14:23-25). Each time, God helped Him become strong so He could resist the temptation.

Decisions

Sometimes Jesus needed to make decisions. The Bible says that Jesus is God. In heaven, Jesus does not have to ask for help making a decision. But, when Jesus was living as a man on earth, He "gave up his place with God and made himself nothing" (Philippians 2:6-8, New Century Version). Jesus asked God for help just like you need to ask for help when you make decisions.

Choosing the 12 disciples was an

important decision! These men would help Jesus and would continue His ministry after He returned to heaven. So what did Jesus do before choosing those men? He spent the whole night praying (Luke 6:12-16)!

Courage

Another reason **Jesus prayed** was because He needed courage. He knew He would have to face difficult things like dying on the cross. Amazingly, Jesus chose to do that because He loves us so much and wanted to take the punishment for our sins. But nobody enjoys the thought of dying—not even Jesus! He was human, so going through a painful death wouldn't be an easy thing. Jesus knew the only way to find the strength and courage He needed was to pray. So **Jesus prayed** more than an hour in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-44). God answered His prayer by sending an angel to strengthen Him (Luke 22:43). God also gave Jesus the courage and calmness to face those who came to arrest Him.

If Jesus needed to pray, what about us? It's easy to think *I can handle this myself*. But even Jesus couldn't. So how can we?

Do you need courage to do some hard or scary thing? Do you need God's help in making an important decision? Do you need strength to resist the temptation to sin? If you do, you have something in common with Jesus—so do what He did. Pray! ★

Brenda Poinsett is a freelance writer from Union, Missouri. She is author of *Celebrations That Touch the Heart: Creative Ideas to Make Your Holidays and Special Events Meaningful*.

Dear Readers,

If you wanted to be a great soccer player, which would you choose?

- Watch soccer on TV but never practice.
- Try to teach yourself.
- Ask a soccer expert to teach you.

Most people would choose to ask an expert because they know an authority on soccer could help them. Well, prayer is like that too. When you want to know about prayer, Jesus is the expert. Learn from Him—He's the best prayer coach you'll ever find!

Keep Praying!
Nancy Sutton,
editor of *PrayKids!*



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Mission Statement

The mission of *PrayKids!* is to teach, encourage, and equip children (ages 8-12) as they develop a deepening relationship with Christ through prayer, so that they might become more effective prayer warriors.

The Best Teacher Ever

By Nancy Sutton

Jesus had many followers who saw Him do miracles and heard Him teach. Do you know what they most wanted to learn from Him? They asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Jesus answered them with an *example*, which we now call The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). When you pray the Lord's Prayer, it will probably be a little different each day, because you will go through different things in your life. Here are some ideas on how to make **Jesus' prayer** your own!

What Jesus prayed :	What it meant:	What you can pray:
"Our Father in heaven"	God is your Father in heaven. No matter what your relationship is with your dad here on earth, you can have a great relationship with your heavenly Dad. Your relationship will grow by talking and listening to Him.	Talk to God about what kind of relationship you'd like to have with Him.
"Hallowed be your name"	God's name is holy and should be praised. He is awesome!	Praise God for who He is. Go on and brag about Him!
"Your kingdom come"	God's kingdom comes when people believe in Jesus as their Savior and want what He wants.	Ask for all people to love, worship, and obey God.
"Your will be done"	God's will is done when we want what God wants for us. God won't force His will on us, but He is happy to tell us when we ask Him.	Let God know you do want His will. Ask Him to show His will to you.
"On earth as it is in heaven"	Heaven is exactly the way God wants things to be. There is beauty, joy, order, and peace. Best of all, God is worshiped by everyone—day and night—as King! We can pray for earth to be more like heaven.	Think of people and situations that need a touch of heaven. Ask God to be King in those lives and situations.
"Give us today our daily bread"	God is your Father in heaven who loves you and will take care of you. He wants to take care of your needs for today so you don't have to worry about the future.	Share your needs with God for today.
"Forgive us our debts"	We are not perfect. We sin and do wrong things. But God is willing to forgive us when we sin, if we just ask Him.	Confess your sins, both the ones you know about and the ones you might not see.
"As we also have forgiven our debtors"	When people hurt you and do wrong things to you, it doesn't mean you should try to get even. Instead, treat them the way God treats you. God forgives us, so we need to forgive others.	Ask God who you need to forgive, and forgive those people.
"And lead us not into temptation"	We need God's protection and strength to avoid temptation. We need His help to lead us away from temptations and to stay far away from them.	Tell God the temptations you have and ask Him to show you the way out.
"But deliver us from the evil one"	We can't fight Satan on our own. We need help. Don't be afraid. God has given us weapons and armor to use: prayer, praise, and the Scriptures.	Ask for and rely on God's help to know which weapons and armor to use in today's fight against the enemy.



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The Prayer Jesus Would

This fictional story is based on Luke 22:39-46 and Matthew 26:52-54. The angels' names, Diakon and Kratos, come from the Greek words for *servant* and *strength*.

B. J. Fisher
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"Diakon, I've come!" A fiery white light blazed to earth as the angel landed next to his friend and fellow warrior.

"I'm glad you're here, Kratos. I don't think I could bear to watch this any longer by myself." Diakon's voice trembled with emotion as he pointed to the figure of a man bent over in the moonlight.

Kratos leaned forward. He knew it was Jesus. He watched Jesus' shoulders shake with sobs. "Where are His friends? They should be with Him now."

"Over there," Diakon pointed. "They're all asleep."

"Asleep?" The angel was outraged. "How can they leave Jesus alone like this? Don't they know the evil one is on the prowl? Time is short."

"Easy, strong one. They are just men and weak, after all. They'll wake soon enough, I think. The Roman centurions are on their way to take Him."

Kratos' hand went quickly to his sword. "Why doesn't He ask His Father for help? If He would just say the word, there would be armies of angels here with us in a flash to fight off the enemy! The entire heavenly host is standing by, ready for Him to give the word. What is He waiting for? We can't be dispatched until He asks for us . . ."

"Listen," Diakon whispered. "I've been listening to Him pray for almost an hour now. Listen to His prayers."

Both angels strained to hear. In the darkness they could see great drops of sweat—it looked like blood—running down Jesus' face and dropping in the dust.

"Oh, Father," Jesus cried, "if there is any other way, take this cup away! Is there any other way, Father? Is

there any way except the cross?" Jesus raised His hands toward heaven. "But I don't want My will to be done, Father—I want Your will to be done."

Kratos wiped tears from his eyes and dropped to his knees. "He loves them so much, doesn't He, Diakon?"

"Yes, Kratos, He does love them. He knows that the only way they can be saved is if He offers Himself willingly on the cross as a sacrifice in their place. What an amazing thing that God would send His only Son to do this for mankind! I don't think I'll ever understand it."

Kratos nodded. "He isn't going to pray that we will come rescue Him, is He?"

"No," Diakon whispered.

Kratos let his hand drop from his sword. He wouldn't need it now. "It's all right, Diakon, I can take it from here. What Jesus needs now is encouragement. That's my assignment—to minister to Him." He stretched out his wings until they surrounded Jesus like a blanket.

And Jesus' strength returned, just as the sound of the approaching Roman centurions filled the air. ★

Sandra Higley loves to read stories about Jesus to her 10 grandchildren. She is the assistant editor of *Pray!*



Alone but Not Lonely

Has anyone ever prayed with you when you were sad or scared? Somehow it helps to have family or friends praying with you in times like that.

During the hardest struggle in His life, just before He was about to die, Jesus also wanted to have His friends to pray with Him. He asked Peter, James, and John to stay awake with Him and pray for an hour (Matthew 26:40,43). But they fell asleep—not just once, but twice!

That didn't stop Jesus from praying, though. And it shouldn't stop you, either. It's wonderful to have friends who will pray with you during hard times. But if there's no one to do that, what's important is that God hears you. He will answer your prayers, even if you have to pray all by yourself—like Jesus did. ★

Don't Pray

By Sandra Higley



Let's Pray for Missionary Pilots

Imagine living where there are no roads, no cars or bicycles, no electricity, no telephones, no stores, and no TV. You are surrounded by thick jungle. You have to hike all day in mud up to your knees just to get to the next village. Or, imagine your home is high up in cold, jagged mountains or far out in the hot burning desert. If you lived in one of these places, how would you go to school? How would you get to church? How would you get to a doctor if you were sick?

Thankfully, God has called some missionaries to work as pilots. They fly small airplanes from larger towns out to the remote villages. The village people spend a year or two building a small runway with their hands so that airplanes can land there. Then, the pilots fly in doctors who help the sick and teach the people how to stay healthy. They fly people who get injured to the hospital. They bring in teachers for the schools and preachers to tell the villagers about Jesus. If a missionary family is living in a remote



village, a missionary pilot often will bring them their food, mail, and medicine. Sometimes, the pilot will even bring them a special treat, like a cold soda pop!

Missionary pilots don't just help other missionaries. They often help Christian leaders or evangelists who were born in the villages and are working to share the good news with their neighbors.

Do you like to fly? Maybe God will someday ask you to be a missionary pilot so you can help too! ★

By Jim Manley of Mission Aviation Fellowship. (www.maf.org)



TOP PHOTOS BY BRUCE WIED
BOTTOM PHOTO BY JIM MANLEY

SIX

COVER THE GLOBE

Five Things You Can Pray for Missionary Pilots

1. Father, thank You for sending pilots to help people in far-away places. Send more, Lord! Help us remember to pray for them as they do Your work (Matthew 9:37,38; 1 Samuel 12:23).

2. O God, keep the pilots safe as they trust in You. When they are in trouble, help them to find a spacious place to land without things in their way (Psalm 16:1; Job 36:16).

3. When the pilots are tired and weary, Lord, may they put their hope in You. Then they will be strong again and fly like eagles (Isaiah 40:31).

4. Father, remind people to send money to the pilots working for You. That way they can keep helping people from "the ends of the earth." Then You will get the glory You deserve (1 Timothy 5:18b; Isaiah 42:10,12).

5. Thank You for groups like Mission Aviation Fellowship. Bless them as they send pilots to help fly people out of danger. Protect them like a soldier's shield (Psalm 5:12).

The Early Bird Gets the Word

Do you know what was one of Jesus' favorite ways to pray? The Bible says that "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16). Another passage tells us **Jesus prayed** alone "very early in the morning, while it was still dark" (Mark 1:35). Jesus may have chosen early mornings to escape the noise of the crowds—and even the questions of His friends and family. He wanted to be able to focus on God alone.

Think about how quiet it is in the early morning in your house. Wouldn't that be a great time to talk and listen

to God? Jesus really had the right idea!

Suggestions for an Early Bird prayer time:

1. Get up early one day a week to pray. (Ask your parents first!)
2. Set your alarm for 15 minutes earlier than usual.
3. Don't turn on the TV or computer, feed the dog, or wake your brother or sister!
4. Take your Bible to the quietest, most private place in the house and ask God what He wants to talk about. (He may answer you through His Word, so it's good to have your Bible nearby.)
5. If God tells you something to pray, do it. You are now spending time with God in the quiet before the day begins—just like Jesus did! ★



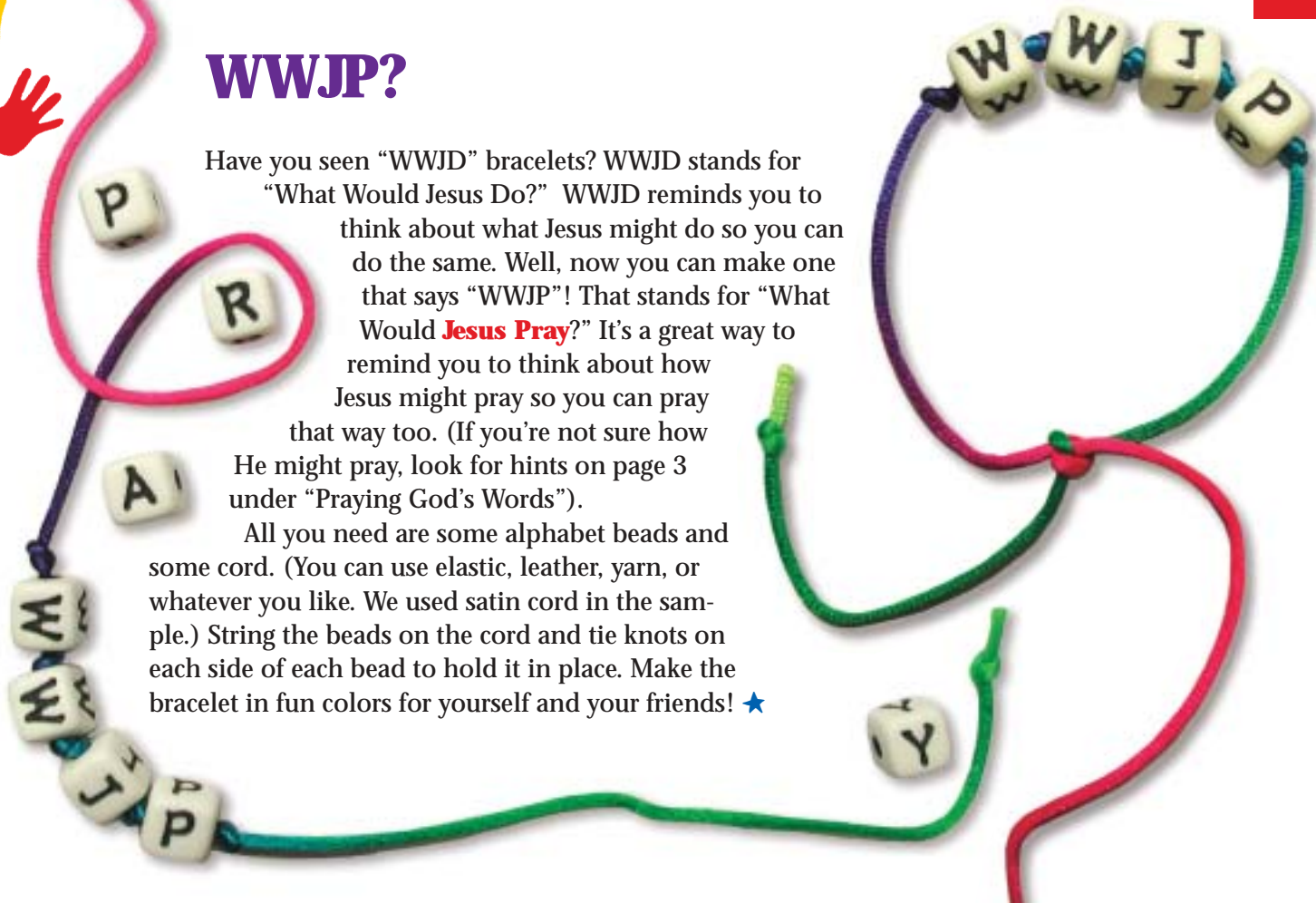
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5. If God tells you something to pray, do it. You are now spending time with God in the quiet before the day begins—just like Jesus did! ★

WWJP?

Have you seen "WWJD" bracelets? WWJD stands for "What Would Jesus Do?" WWJD reminds you to think about what Jesus might do so you can do the same. Well, now you can make one that says "WWJP"! That stands for "What Would **Jesus Pray**?" It's a great way to remind you to think about how Jesus might pray so you can pray that way too. (If you're not sure how He might pray, look for hints on page 3 under "Praying God's Words").

All you need are some alphabet beads and some cord. (You can use elastic, leather, yarn, or whatever you like. We used satin cord in the sample.) String the beads on the cord and tie knots on each side of each bead to hold it in place. Make the bracelet in fun colors for yourself and your friends! ★



Calling All Scripture Sleuths

By Brenda Poinsett

Time for some Bible-sleuthing fun! Wherever Jesus' prayers are actually written in the Bible, we know exactly what He prayed for. However, sometimes the Bible tells us that He prayed, but not what He said. When that happens, we can put on our detective hats and look for clues! If we check out what happened *before, during, and after Jesus prayed*, we can get a pretty good idea what His prayer was about.

Gather the family for some detective work. Provide paper, pens, and Bibles. To add to the fun, break up into two teams. Give prizes to the team that gathers the most clues. (Note: Provide a consolation prize for the other team.) Emphasize that we are just guessing when it comes to what Jesus actually prayed, but if we gather our clues diligently, we can come pretty close!

Prayer #1

Jesus traveled to the river Jordan.

Clue #1 (Matthew 3:13): Why did He go?

Clue #2 (Luke 3:21-23a): What did Jesus do after His baptism?

Clue #3 (Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 3:16-17): What three things happened when Jesus was baptized?

Put it together: What do you think Jesus might have prayed?

Prayer #2

Jesus traveled to Capernaum

(Matthew 4:12-13).

Clue #1 (Mark 1:21-31): What made Jesus so popular there?

Clue #2 (Mark 1:32-34): At the end of that amazing Sabbath day, what did the people do?

Clue #3 (Mark 1:35-37): What did Jesus do the next morning all by Himself?

Clue #4 (Mark 1:36-38): After He prayed, what did Jesus say to those who were looking for Him?

Clue #5 (Mark 1:39; Matthew 4:23-25): Where did Jesus go next?

Put it together: What do you think Jesus might have prayed?

Prayer #3

The religious leaders opposed Jesus and what He did.

Clue #1 (Luke 6:1-11; Mark 3:1-6): Why did the leaders oppose Him?

Clue #2 (Luke 6:11; Mark 3:6): How did the leaders act when Jesus continued to break the rules?

Clue #3 (Luke 6:12): What did Jesus do?

Clue #4 (Luke 6:13-16): What did Jesus do after He prayed?

Put it together: What do you think Jesus might have prayed?

Prayer #4

In Jesus' last year of ministry, many followers left Him.

Clue #1 (Mark 8:11-12): When the

Pharisees tried to trap Jesus, how did He respond? What feelings do you think Jesus had?

Clue #2 (Matthew 16:5-12; Mark 8:14-21): Did the people with Jesus know who He really was? Can you tell how Jesus felt?


Clue #3 (Luke 9:18): What did Jesus do?

Clue #4 (Luke 9:18-20; Matthew 16:13-20): What questions did Jesus ask after He prayed? What was Peter's answer?

Clue #5 (Matthew 16:17-19): What did Jesus say to Peter? What might Jesus have been feeling?

Put it together: Based on the change in Jesus' emotions, what do you think He prayed? ★

Answers appear in *PrayKids! Leader's Guide* (www.praykids.com) along with other passages for sleuthing!



**ENCOURAGE
YOUR KIDS**

If your child has a story of an answered prayer, how his/her life was impacted by prayer, or how his/her class prayed and something special happened, please send it to:

**PrayKids!
P.O. Box 35004
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3504
Email: praykids@navpress.com**

While we cannot publish everything that is sent in, we will put some additional stories up on our website.
www.praykids.com

FREE

Leader's Guide for Teachers/Parents:

Did you know we have a **free** leader's guide with extra activities, questions, and prayer points to go along with each article in *PrayKids!*? Go to www.praykids.com and select "Parents and Teachers." Then select which issue you want and just click on the article title. Download what you need so you can use *PrayKids!* with a group of kids.

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