

Main Street Kids

JANUARY 2021: PRAY FIRST



Hi Main Street Families!

Here are several activities for your Main Street Kids to participate in our Corporate Main Street Church: Pray First. If your Main Street Kids are interested in starting their own Prayer Journal for 2021, send me an email and I would love to share some ideas with them!

I miss you all and can't wait to hear how God speaks to your Main Street Kids during this season!

Love Ms. Lindsey
lindsey@mainstreetchurch.ca

If your child wants to join you in fasting:

Last year, we had many great conversations with the Main Street Kids about prayer and fasting... although some thought it was funny to say they wanted to "fast from chores" or "fast from school". Nice Try!

For kids, fasting from all food is obviously not encouraged, but kids can fast from certain kinds of food such as ice cream, candy and other favorites. Other ways for kids to fast can include video games, TV, iPads, etc.

- Ms. Lindsey

Use this object lesson to teach your kids about fasting:

- Set out an empty cup, a bowl, some sand, and a pitcher of water. Each time you talk about something that fills our lives, pour a little sand in the cup.
- Say: This cup represents us. We fill our lives with things. We might fill our lives with friends or sports. (pour some sand into the cup) We might fill our lives with toys or clothes, music, our hobbies, our devices. (pour more sand into the cup) We can be really busy. Before we know it, our lives are full, (pour more sand into the cup until it is full) just like this cup is full of sand.
- Now let's try to pour some water in the cup. The water represents God. (Hold the cup of sand over the bowl and pour water on it.) It's full! How can we pour water in the cup when it's so full?
- We might get so distracted by all the things in life that we think are important, but the most important thing is God. We're going to talk about fasting to help us remember God and put Him first in our lives.
- Fasting is something we learn about in the Bible and many people still do today. It is emptying ourselves and giving things up, so God can fill us up.
- When we fast, we give up something that we don't need, so we can focus on God.
- During fasting, we can increase our: dependence on Him, faith, strength in the Lord as we resist and deny ourselves
- (Pour out the sand, then pour water into the cup.)
- When we get rid of some of the distractions in our lives, we make room for God to pour Himself into our lives and we can grow closer to Him. God will fill us with His love, His strength and His power.
- Discuss: How would your relationship with God change if you made time to connect with Him and pray to Him every day?

Object Lesson from Deeper KidMin

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

How to Hear From God: Listening Prayer for Kids by Christie Thomas

Giggling, my boys scurried into their beds. One up the ladder to the top bunk, the other underneath. Damp hair curled around their ears, smelling fresh from the bath. It was time to listen to God. I asked them to repeat these words: "Jesus, please help me to listen to you. Help my heart and mind to be quiet so I can hear you. Jesus, what would you like to say to me today?" Then I reminded them that it was time to be quiet and wait for Jesus to respond, something that is very hard for small boys to do. But within a minute, my younger son said "I think he wants to say 'I love you.'" The older boy was discouraged because he hadn't heard any whispers in his heart; he said his brain was too noisy. I encouraged him to ask God to help his brain be quiet. His quiet whispers traveled from the top bunk to my ears, and straight to God's heart: "God please help my brain to be quiet so I can hear what you have to say to me."

The longing of his heart tugged at my heart, and I prayed harder that he would sense God's love. Only a few seconds had passed when I saw his face poking out over the top of the bunk. With a smile that simultaneously held surprise, joy, and bashfulness, he told me what God had spoken to him. "God said 'I love you, Cubbie.'" Both boys had an experience with God that evening but I believe it was the most meaningful to Cubbie, my 7 year old. He knows what it's like to have an incredibly busy brain, one that is constantly coming up with ideas and plans. But in one simple heart-whisper, his heart and mind were brought to peace.

Can we actually hear God speak?

God desires to speak to our children, for them to know and follow His voice. I believe that we can sometimes hear God speak because I believe I have heard his voice in a variety of ways. I am quick to remind my children that God USUALLY speaks through Scripture, but God speaks in many other ways as well: through dreams, through visions (like a picture in your head while awake) through a song or Bible verse remembered at the exact right moment, through a whisper in my heart. My prayer is that in training them to hear and recognize God's voice when they are young, they will continue to know and heed his voice when life becomes more complicated.

But how can we train our kids to listen for God when we don't know how to do this?

So many of us spend our lives in the church and yet don't know how to pray. We stumble through unfamiliar words, or feel that our short prayers are feeble and ignored, or spend our time reading other people's prayers and finding them meaningless in our context. We sense that there is more to this "relationship with God" but have no idea how to get there. My friend, God has so much more in store for us. "God formed us for his pleasure, and so formed us that we, as well as He, can, in divine communion enjoy the sweet and mysterious mingling of kindred personalities. He meant us to see Him, to live with Him, and to draw our life from His smile." A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine*. God is, in the words of Anne of Green Gables, our most kindred spirit. He longs for us to know Him, to taste and see that He is gracious to us. He rises to show us compassion, He calls to us from across the deep, and rejoices over us with singing. Prayer is the way to that deeper, divine communion with El-Shama, the God Who Hears. Prayer is the way because it is not a one-way speech: not only does He hear us, but He is the God Who Speaks. "God is forever seeking to speak Himself out to His creation. The whole Bible supports this idea. God is speaking. Not God spoke, but God is speaking...It is the nature of God to speak. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity is called the Word." A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*. The truth is, our Great God desires to be in deep communion with you, and with your children. If prayer is the pathway to that deep communion, then we must teach ourselves, and our children, how to pray. You will likely find that your children are already talking with God. Children have a unique ability to hear from God because they are not jaded by the cares and distractions of this world. At this time of life they are most open to learning to speak to God and to hear from Him. "Though in its beginning prayer is so simple that the feeblest child can pray, it is at the same time the highest and holiest work to which man can rise." Murray, Andrew, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. But prayer isn't just about talking TO God. It's about a dialogue. "Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part." Murray, Andrew, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. God desires to speak to our children, for them to know and follow His voice.

What does God's voice sound like?

If we're talking about actually hearing God's voice as words or picture in our hearts, minds, or even (rarely) our ears, you may be wondering: what does God's voice sound like? You won't be the first person to ask that question! All of my kids have asked this same question, and I think that most Christians have asked it at some point in their lives. Here's the problem: of all the competing voices in our heads and hearts, how do we know which one is his? THIS IS WHAT I TELL MY KIDS: God's voice will always sound like love; love for myself as an individual and love for humanity. In fact, the most common thing I hear spoken to my heart, and to the hearts of children, is "I love you." Recently, my eldest son reported after praying and listening that God had told him "I'm thankful for you too." That made me chuckle. Are you ready to help your children learn to recognize the voice of their shepherd?

3 steps to help your child hear the voice of God:

1. Find a quiet place.

The voice of God usually will compete with noise. In the Gospels, we often see Jesus going to quiet places to be alone to pray. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." Mark 1:35 NIV. If Jesus needed to get alone to be able to have a real conversation with God, so do we! This is especially true in this digital age, where there is always something hammering at our brains. Even our kids feel the near-constant pull of distracting technology.

2. Invite God to speak, asking him to help your hearts be quiet enough to listen. Help your child get into a comfortable listening position, then pray the following prayer together. SAY: Jesus, please help me to listen to you today. Help my heart and mind to be quiet so I can hear you. Jesus, what would you like to say to us today?

3. Wait in expectation. Realistically, we won't always hear his voice. It is such a quiet voice and sometimes it is hard to identify. But I find that when my boys and I are truly waiting in expectation, at least one of us does.

A prayer to hear God's voice (questions on the following page)

Have your child ask these questions of God, either by repeating after you, or reading them with you. Then, encourage them to be quiet. Yes, this is hard! After, have your child listen for the answer and report back to you or journal on the following page. If they haven't heard anything, encourage them to ask God to quiet their minds and help them to listen.

PRAYER JOURNAL FOR KIDS

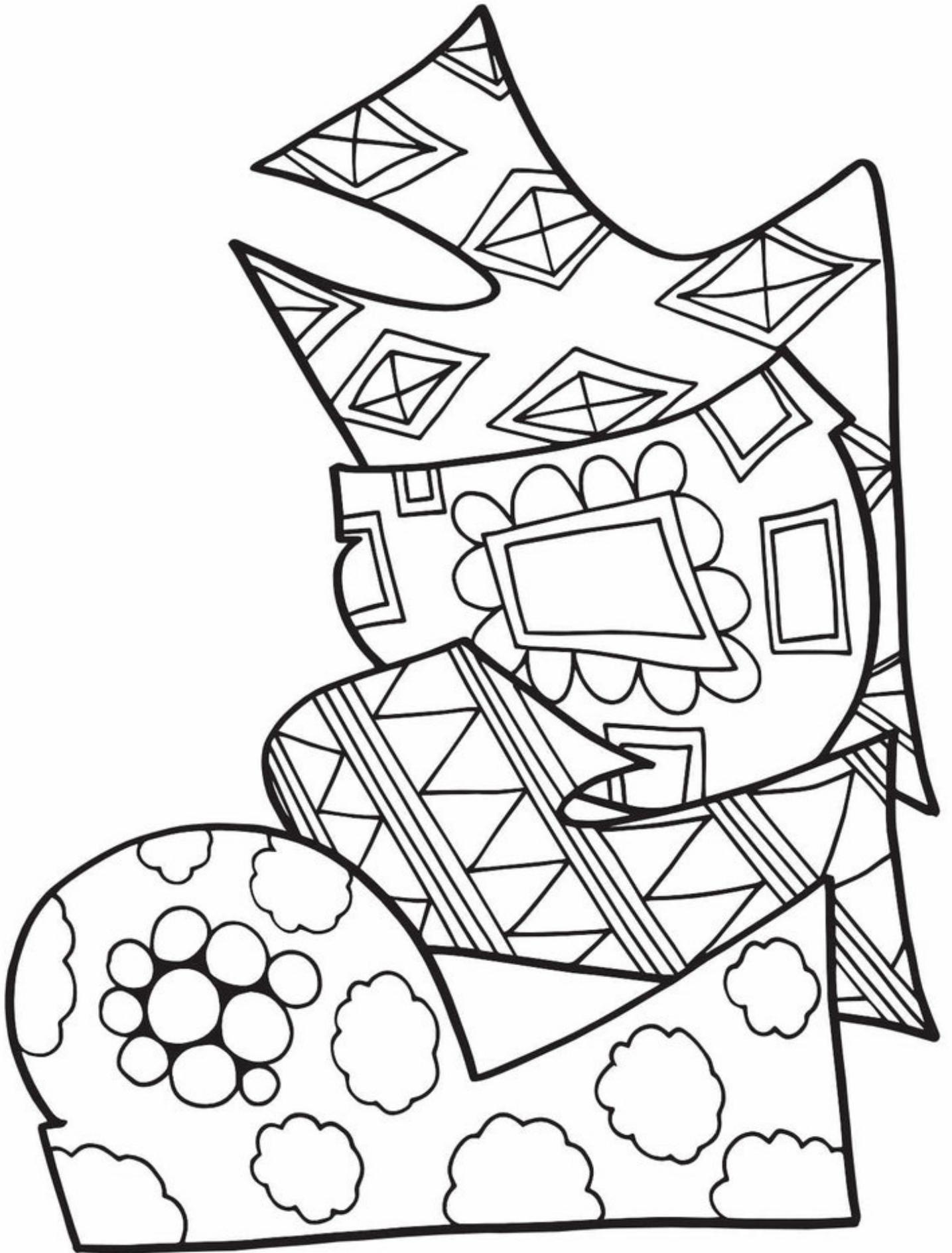
One word to describe God is...

Thank you for...

Prayer Requests:

God, I am sorry...

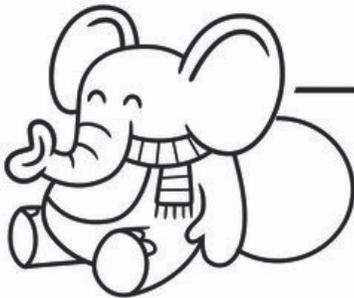
Draw a picture of something
AWESOME you saw God do today!





ALL PEOPLE WILL COME TO YOU, BECAUSE
YOU HEAR AND ANSWER PRAYER.

-PSALM 65:2



tiny truths

WONDER & WISDOM



Be joyful

♥ in hope, ♥

patient in

affliction,

faithful

in prayer. ♥

Romans 12:12



God Hears and Answers Prayer

Word Search - The Lord's Prayer

Circle the words listed below from the Lord's Prayer.

M	S	A	L	S	E	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	G
U	B	C	W	B	P	A	L	L	L	W	I	V	Z	E
P	O	R	J	B	L	E	A	P	O	N	G	D	G	D
O	X	T	H	Y	W	I	L	L	R	K	A	P	L	A
W	I	O	I	L	D	E	H	R	Y	E	O	H	X	I
E	N	Z	H	V	A	G	D	H	T	A	M	E	N	L
R	G	T	F	A	T	H	E	R	X	R	L	A	C	Y
Y	E	X	I	D	L	W	B	L	H	T	R	V	E	B
G	U	V	U	N	N	L	T	A	C	H	V	E	M	R
D	E	L	I	V	E	R	O	E	H	I	O	N	W	E
E	O	L	Y	L	P	I	R	W	A	C	E	Z	R	A
B	L	S	E	G	N	O	S	H	E	T	S	L	F	D
T	N	A	T	A	L	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	O	M
S	H	R	M	A	D	E	P	H	O	P	S	X	N	I
S	T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	I	N	G	E



Father

Thy will

earth

hallowed

debtors

glory

forgive

temptation

deliver

lead

amen

evil

power

kingdom

debts

heaven

daily bread



ACTIVITIES

Static Electricity Prayers

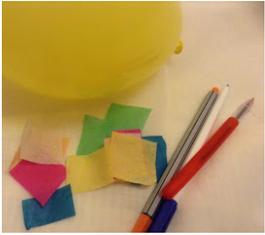
This is a fun, visual way to pray, and illustrates God's power and desire to hear our prayers.

You will need: small pieces of tissue paper, pens, a balloon, hair or a rug!

Ask children who or what they would like to pray for and then ask them to choose a colour of tissue paper to reflect that person or thing. They can write or draw on their tissue piece if they want to. Take turns rubbing the balloon on a rug or on your hair. This will build up some static on the balloon!

Talk about giving our prayers to God and asking Him to show his power in each situation. Children can hold their tissue prayer close to the balloon and watch as it is pulled onto the balloon and sticks there.

Pray that, as the paper sticks to the balloon, God will hold all of our prayers and that we will see his power at work.



Blessings Tower

You will need: Lego, Duplo, or blocks

Kids stack Legos/Duplos/blocks, thanking God for a blessing with each one. After the tower is built, talk about how many blessing God has given us!



Healing Wall

Cut a cross shape out of poster board. Kids will write the names of people who need healing on the Band-aids, then pray for them as they stick the Band-aids to the cross.

Looking for more?

Search **Main Street Kids** on **Pinterest** and look for the boards titled:

- Prayer
 - Journaling
 - Activities
- and more

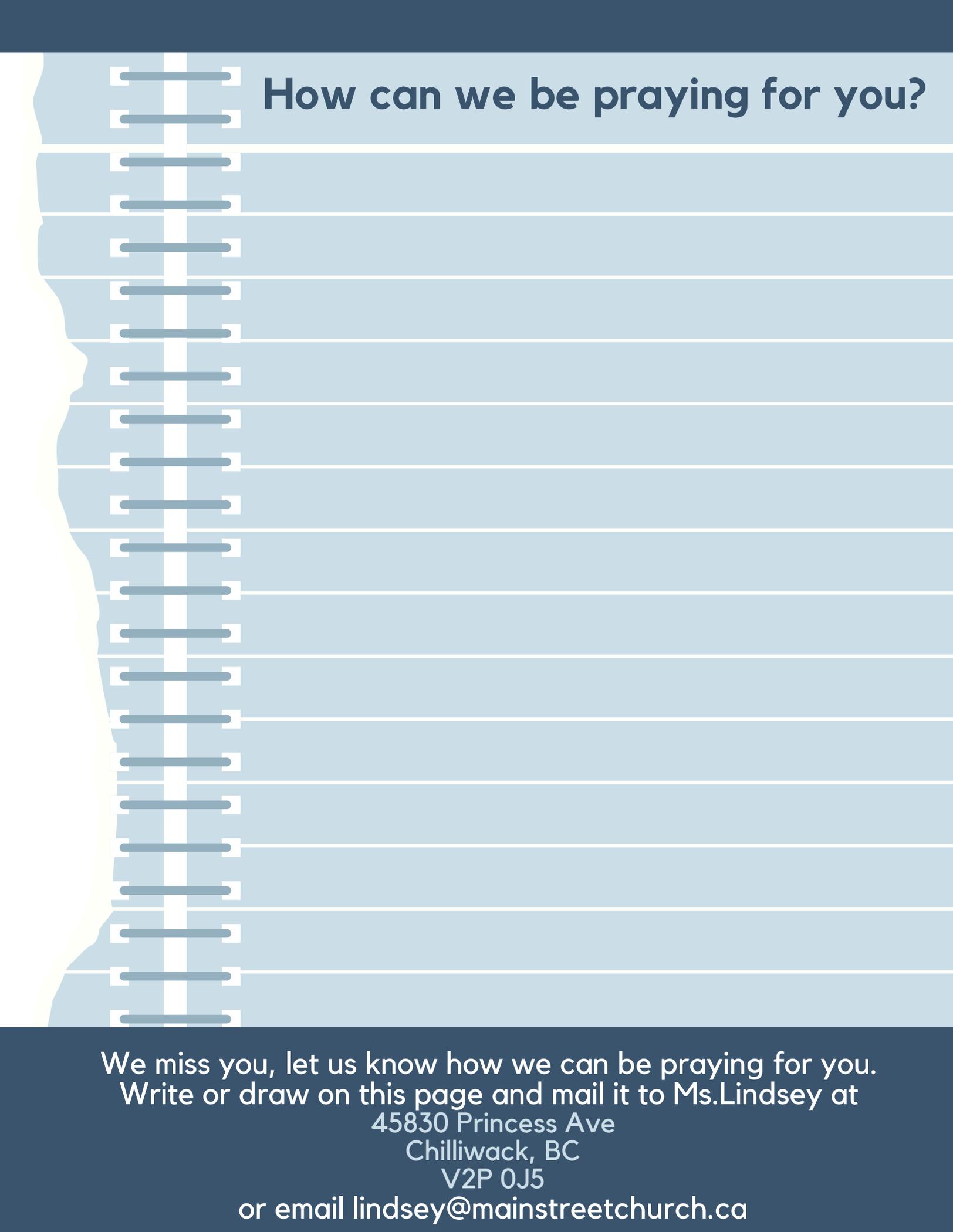
We've pinned a bunch of awesome resources, coloring sheets, crafts, games, etc.

Monthly Family Resource Packages are available to pick up at the Church office, email lindsey@mainstreetchurch.ca to arrange a pick up time.

Post a picture of your family doing an activity from your January Resource Package and tag Main Street Kids on Instagram or Facebook to get entered into our January Prize Draw!

Don't forget to keep working on your **Winter Bucket List** and send a picture to lindsey@mainstreetchurch.ca before the end of February to be entered in a draw for a Family Prize Pack.





How can we be praying for you?

We miss you, let us know how we can be praying for you.
Write or draw on this page and mail it to Ms.Lindsey at
45830 Princess Ave
Chilliwack, BC
V2P 0J5
or email lindsey@mainstreetchurch.ca