Authority in Prayer Leader's Guide

1. **In Matthew 16:18, the Greek word for church is "ekklesia". What does "ekklesia" mean? (Ekklesia is a government word. It's used for a legislative body like a city council that governs a city, state, or nation.)**
2. **What was the job of the ekklesia during the Roman Empire? (The ekklesia was sent to change the culture of a conquered area until it looked like Rome. It changed the government, schools, language, and more.)**
3. **How is the church supposed to change culture? (The church is supposed to make earth look like heaven and bring the kingdom of God to earth.)**
4. **Matthew 16:18 speaks of the "gates of hell". What happened at the gates of a city in Bible times? (Gates were a place of government business in Bible times. City councils met at the gates.)**
5. **What does the "gates of hell" mean? (It means the government of hell or the decisions of hell.)**
6. **In Matt.16:19 Jesus says that the "gates of hell will not overcome the church". What does this mean? (Hell has evil plans against the church and will fight it, but the church will win!)**
7. **What do keys do? What does Jesus mean when he says he'll give us the keys of the kingdom? See Matthew 16:19. (Keys lock and unlock doors. Keys represent the authority Jesus gives the church to allow and forbid things on earth.)**
8. **What do snakes and scorpions represent in Luke 10:19? What does this verse tell us about the church's power? (Snakes and scorpions represent demons and hell. The church can overcome all the enemy's power.)**
9. **Jesus told his disciples to command in prayer. What 2 commands are found in the Lord's Prayer? What do these commands mean? (1. Your kingdom come. 2. Your will be done on earth. They mean – we command your kingdom to come and your will to be done on the earth.)**
10. **In Matt. 16:19 Jesus talks about binding or forbidding evil on earth. Explain. (The church has power to lock the doors to evil, to command it to**

leave in Jesus' name. We can forbid violence, drugs, depression, gender confusion, etc. in our schools, families, neighborhoods, nation.)

11. **In Matt. 16:19 Jesus also talks about allowing or "loosing" good. Explain. (The church has power to unlock doors to good. We can command peace, love, joy, hope, and more in our homes, schools, nation.)**
12. **What evil do you see in your school, community, or nation? What can you do about it? (Answers will vary. We can PRAY. We have authority to forbid evil, to shut the door to it in our homes, schools, etc.)**
13. **What good things do you want to see in your school, community, nation? What can you do about it? (Answers will vary. You can PRAY. We have the authority to unlock good, to permit and allow unity, peace, kindness, etc.)**
14. **What happens when the church sleeps? (The devil wins when the church sleeps.)**
15. **Is there anything God wants you to pray about? (If there is something you keep thinking about, God probably want to use YOU to pray about it. You can make a difference!)**