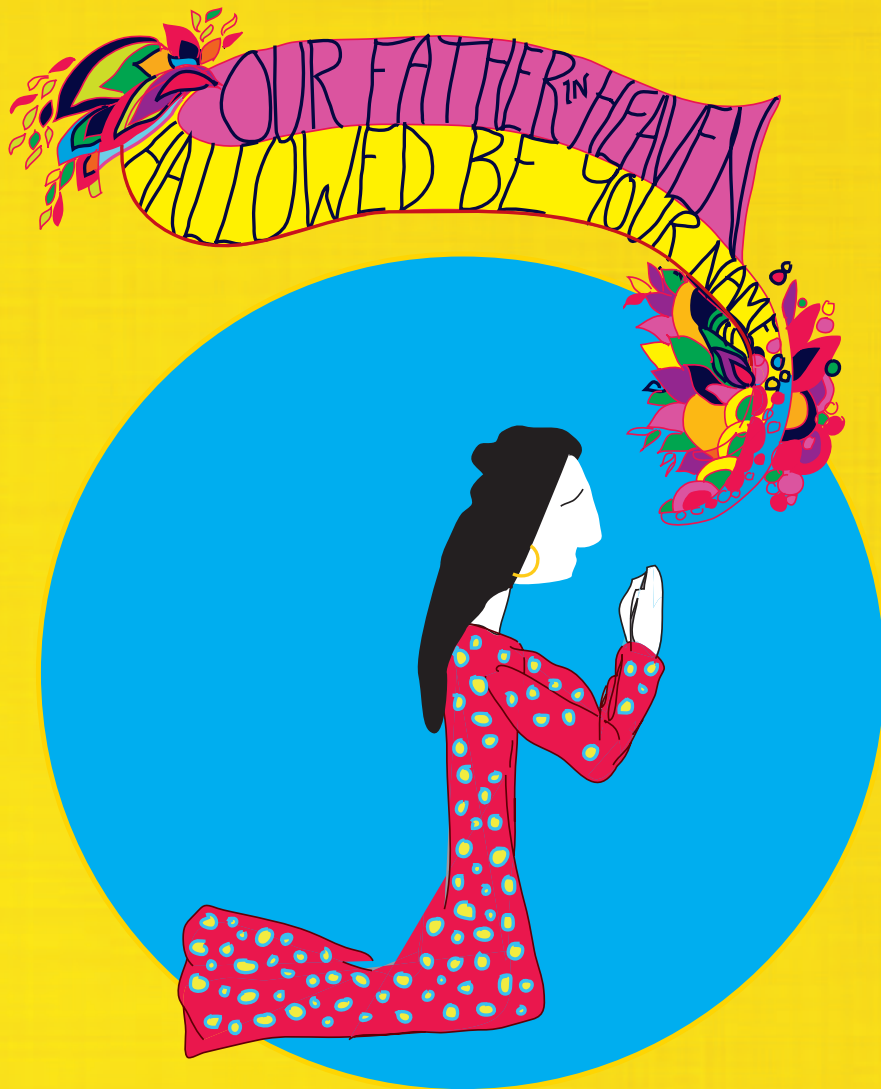


LESSON 15

The Lord's Prayer

MATTHEW 6:1-18



BIBLE TRUTH

WE LIVE FOR THE PRAISE OF GOD, NOT THE PRAISE OF MAN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read Matthew 6:1–18 from the Scriptures or read story 93, “The Lord’s Prayer,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

A Little Misunderstanding

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ trumpet or other horn—a toy horn is fine, even a kazoo

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 **15 MIN**

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ sweet bread or sweet rolls—enough for the entire class (consider food allergies)
- ✓ printout of the following twelve verses: Genesis 18:5; Exodus 16:4; 34:28; Deuteronomy 8:3; 1 Kings 17:11; Proverbs 31:27; Luke 22:19; John 6:32; 6:35; 6:51; 21:13; Acts 2:46

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

7. ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 15—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN**

Memorize and Pray

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Give in secret—This passage seems to contradict the one that came a chapter before. In Matthew 5:16, Jesus taught we should not keep our light hidden under a basket. Now we are instructed to keep our acts of righteousness secret. This isn't really a contradiction. In this passage, Jesus is speaking against the way the hypocrites lived (Matthew 6:5), parading their good works for all to see. They wanted to look good in front of others. Outwardly they displayed their good works, but inwardly they were full of sin. The real difference is about what is going on inside your heart. It is fine to tell others about Jesus and all that he is doing in your life to reach them with the gospel message, but it is not good to boast about your faith for the sake of looking good before men.

Pray in secret—Jesus continues to warn against hypocrisy using the illustration of prayer. He is not prohibiting public prayer. Rather, he is speaking against those who, when praying, draw attention to themselves. Their focus is on themselves, not God. Their concern, rather than being communion with God, is the praise of their fellow man.

Jesus goes on to teach his disciples how to pray. The first half of the Lord's Prayer is all about giving God the glory due his name. This stands in stark contrast to the self-glorifying prayer of the hypocrite. Jesus then introduces his hearers to the amazing truth that God is our Father in heaven. God is personal—he is our Father. He has a name, a kingdom, and a will. After celebrating the glory of God and his person, the prayer continues by requesting help from God for daily living. What an amazing truth! Jesus encourages us to ask God for help.

Fast in secret—Jesus continues his warning against hypocrisy by using a third illustration of fasting. Good works, prayer, and fasting, each brings a reward. Even though all we do is by God's grace, God promises to reward us for the good works he enables us to do! But if we do our good works to receive praise from men, that praise will be our only reward.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

When Jesus prayed for God's kingdom to come and God's will to be done, he was praying for his own sacrificial death to be accomplished because that was how the Father planned to save sinful man. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for the cup of suffering to pass, but only if it was the will of his Father. Jesus came as a servant, lived a sinless life, and then gave up his life so that we could be delivered from temptation and evil. Apart from the work of Christ, the Lord's Prayer would be meaningless.

Forgiveness would not be possible if it were not for Jesus' death on the cross. God can forgive us only because Jesus took the penalty we deserved for our sin. Hebrews 9:22 tells us that without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness. The Lord's Prayer would be meaningless if Jesus had not died on the cross to make forgiveness possible.

Forgiveness marks our lives as Christians. The Lord's Prayer assumes those who seek God's forgiveness have already forgiven those who have sinned against them. Jesus concludes the Lord's Prayer by explaining that forgiving others is a requirement to receiving forgiveness. This does not mean that we can earn God's forgiveness by forgiving others; rather, this is one of many indicators of true conversion. If we understand our sinfulness and the tremendous suffering Jesus endured to make a way for our forgiveness, we will gladly forgive others.

Our sin against God is worse than any crime committed against us. If, however, we do not understand the priceless gift of God's forgiveness, we won't have a basis to forgive the debt of others against us. There is always a cost to forgiveness. Jesus endured the Father's wrath for our sin. He bore the cost of our sin in a justifying, redeeming way. Of course, we cannot do that. For us, the cost of forgiveness has to do with choosing not to seek, demand, or subtly exact some kind of payment for the sin committed against us. The cost of forgiveness for us is in releasing the debt we are owed by others. Genuine forgiveness costs us the "right" to seek repayment for sin, or somehow to try to "get even." Such forgiveness is only possible as we understand how great a debt of sin we have been forgiven in the gospel. It is simply unthinkable for ones who have been forgiven so great a debt of sin against a holy God to exact payment from others for their sins.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read Matthew 5:1–26 from the Scriptures or read story 91, “The Sermon on the Mount—The Beatitudes,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

A Little Misunderstanding

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ trumpet or other horn—a toy horn is fine, even a kazoo

Do this humorous, ad-lib skit with a fellow teacher. Don’t worry about memorizing lines, just act it out.

One teacher plays the role of the hypocrite who misreads the Scripture and is trying to be a good Christian by doing all three outward demonstrations of hypocrisy: they are announcing their giving with trumpets, babbling prayers out loud, and disfiguring their face in strange ways.

When class starts, the hypocrite should come into the class with a trumpet and blow on it and announce they just gave to the church’s orphan’s fund. Then the hypocrite immediately starts making faces, followed by another trumpet blast and an announcement that they are going to fast today. Throw in a few loudly babbled prayers and repeat until interrupted by the teacher.

The teacher should stop the hypocrite and inquire what he is doing. The hypocrite should say that he is just trying to be a good Christian and then explain that he is giving (blow the horn), praying (babble a prayer), and fasting (say with a disfigured face). To this ridiculous act the teacher should explain that he is doing a few things wrong.

The teacher should read Matthew 6:1–18. The hypocrite should look surprised and read the text himself out loud. Every place it says “not” he should pronounce the word “note.” That of course will make the passage sound nonsensical. The teacher can laugh, explain the difference between “note” and “not,” and then continue teaching the lesson.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **15 MIN**

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ sweet bread or sweet rolls—enough for the entire class (consider food allergies)
- ✓ printout of the following twelve verses: Genesis 18:5; Exodus 16:4; 34:28; Deuteronomy 8:3; 1 Kings 17:11; Proverbs 31:27; Luke 22:19; John 6:32; 6:35; 6:51; 21:13; Acts 2:46

The object of this exercise is to illustrate the connection between our daily bread and the Word of God.

Read one verse at a time to the class. See if they can guess whether it is from the Old Testament or the New Testament. Ask them if it is talking about earthly bread we eat to help our physical body or heavenly bread (God’s Word) that we study and obey to help our spiritual body.

Talk about Deuteronomy 8:3, which Jesus quotes in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4. Have the class discuss how the Word of God is like bread to us.

Pass out the bread or rolls and draw out the class and have them explain how bread is good for us. Then ask them why bread is a good analogy or picture of the Word of God and how it is good for us.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 15—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What is in the picture?**
(two loaves of bread and the cross of Jesus)

- **Why is there a cross with the bread?**
(It is because Jesus died on the cross that God gives us what we need and takes care of us. Jesus is called the bread of life.)

- **How does Jesus say we should pray about bread?**
(Jesus tells us to ask God for bread every day.)

- **What does daily bread represent?**
(Daily bread represents everything we need every day. The most important thing we need is to know Jesus more and more. We need earthly bread, but we also need heavenly bread. We need Jesus, the bread of life.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN**

Memorize and Pray

Even if many of your students have already memorized the Lord's Prayer, take some time to review it together. Then set aside some time to pray through each part. Expand upon what is written. For instance, praise God for all his names (Creator, Almighty, Lord of Lords, King, Prince of Peace, Father, etc.). Take time to hear the daily requests and petitions of the class. Going through the Lord's Prayer in this expanded way will give the children a great model for their own prayer lives.

LESSON 15 - THE LORD'S PRAYER

