

Lesson on Prayer:

What is prayer?

What does it mean to you?

How do we pray?

What do we pray about?

Why do we pray?

How do we know God is listening?

How to teach our kids to pray?

These are questions I know I have asked myself as a small child and now I ask these questions as a parent. As I have grown as a Christian I have learned time and time again that I cannot succeed with Christ and that means lots of prayer. A very important lesson I have learned, is that prayer should never be a last resort. We must learn to pray for anything and everything in **ALL** circumstances. But first we have to try and answer the questions above. We must start at the beginning.

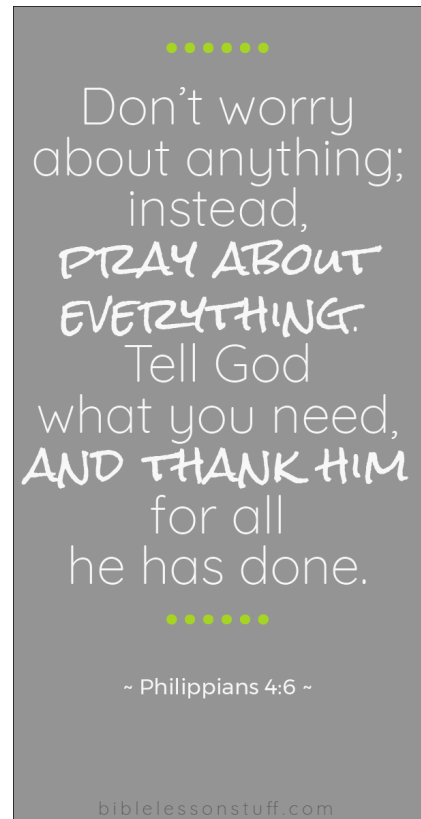
Question 1. What is prayer?

The dictionary definition of prayer is a solemn request for help or an expression of thanks addressed to God. Prayer can be defined as talking to God, but it is much more than that. Prayer is an act of worship that glorifies God and reinforces our need for Him. Through living a life of prayer, we respond to Christ's work of salvation and communicate with the very source of and purpose for our existence.

Ask the kids what prayers means to them.

Read Ephesians 6:18 – “Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”

Question 2. What does prayer mean to you?



To me, prayer is a way of life. Prayer is a constant vessel that always stays open. Prayer is a way of talking to God. Prayer is an outlet that lets me know in any and every circumstance I am not alone.

Read Psalm 145:18 – “The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.”

Question 3. How do we pray?

Read Matthew 6:9-13 – “Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don’t let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

God gives us an outline in this scripture as to how we should pray to Him. However prayer can look different to everyone. You can pray out loud or to yourself. You can pray alone or in a crowd of people. You can pray through singing or with your eyes opened or closed.

Ask the kids how they like to pray to God?

Question 4 and 5. What do we pray about and why?

Prayer is a conversation between you and God. God says you can pray about anything and everything. You can pray to thank God, you can pray to ask Him for help, or you can even pray just to tell Him about your day. God is not only your father but He is your friend. He has given us everything and desires to have a closer relationship with His children. When we pray we grow our relationship in Christ.

Ask the kids what things they have or would like to pray about?

Read Philippians 4:6 – “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”

Read Colossians 4:2 – “Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.”

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – “Never stop praying.”

Question 6. How do we know God is listening?

Personally, this is the hardest question because it has to deal with your faith. How do we know God is listening? Sometimes he says no to our requests, sometimes He answers us in a way we didn't see coming. But the answer is simple, we know God is listening because He loves us. God loves us and desires to have a close and personal relationship with all of His children.

---Give an example as to how you know God is listening to your prayers. For Example. Often times when I pray, God will give me a sense of peace, the whole world gets a little quiet and it's like a rush of wind that flows over me where I can feel His presence.

Ask the kids a time where they felt God was listening to them?

Read 1 John 1:19 – “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

Pray together as a family. Parents start off and then encourage your children to join in. There is no right or wrong thing to say to Jesus. By openly talking to Jesus every day in prayer, it will get easier and easier to pray to Him.

Object lesson on prayer:

Blindfold the child and place him or her in the center of the room. Choose who you want the child to respond to mom or dad. For this example we will have the child only reply to mom. Have a sibling or the dad call his name. They should say, “John (or the child's name) can you hear me?” Tell the child to only answer to mom. Tell everyone else in the room to call out his name one at a time. Finally ask the Mom to call out his name. Then the child should respond!

Explain how John knew his mom's voice because he had heard it before. He talks to his mom every day and she talks to him. Kids should understand that they need to exchange talks with God every day so they can hear like John.



1. First, set up the object lesson.

Set up the four glass containers in a row in front of you.

Inflate the balloon.

Peel both hard-boiled eggs and sit them beside the two glass juice bottles.

Beside the last glass, place the saucer with the candle in the middle of it.

Beside the saucer, place the dish with the bit of colored water in it.

2. Second, show how prayers of thanksgiving and adoration can draw us closer in relationship to God.

The first object lesson on prayer I want to do for you is taking one glass, the balloon, and a match, and illustrating how a prayer of thanksgiving and adoration draws us closer to God.

The glass is upright. This glass represents our life, or our life situation. This match (light the match) represents our prayer. And this balloon represents our Heavenly Father.

Drop the match in the glass and place the balloon over the mouth of the glass. The match will burn for a short time, then it will go out. The bottom of the balloon will get “sucked into” the glass a little bit, as a vacuum is created inside the glass.

You see, our prayer of thanksgiving and adoration, it removes our own self-centeredness from our lives. It burns up that stuff from our minds, and allows our eyes instead to turn towards the will, the sovereignty, the beauty, and the love of God. And as we pray thanks and as we adore him, He comes closer to us, just as you saw the balloon draw inwards into the glass.

Now, lift up the balloon. The glass lifts with it.

This prayer of thanksgiving and adoration – it allows us to be so close to God, and so in tune with Him, that as He moves, we move with Him.

4. Third, show how requests/petitions can be presented to God, and how He can answer differently.

Another important way to pray is to present our requests or petitions to God. This second little object lesson on prayer we will use two glass bottles, two eggs, and a couple of matches.

As before, let the glass bottles represent our lives, or our life situations. Let the matches represent our prayer requests. And let these eggs here, let them represent what we’re praying for in our lives. Maybe we’re asking for healing. Maybe we’re asking for safety. Whatever it is, let these eggs represent.

Light two matches and drop them in the bottles. Place an egg over the mouth of both bottles.

The egg over the wider mouth will get sucked into the glass bottle. The egg over the narrow mouth will stay sitting on top.

This is just like real life. God answers prayer in different ways. Sometimes, He answers with a yes. Sometimes, that request? It never comes into our lives, like this second egg still sitting on top. Prayer isn't magic. And just because we received "no" or "wait" as an answer to our request, it doesn't mean God isn't listening, and it doesn't mean we didn't receive an answer. But sometimes, we don't receive the answer we want.

5. Last, show how prayers of repentance allow sin to be replaced with the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Let's also just talk about how prayers of repentance are also extremely important.

We all have sin in our lives. Maybe it's sin that's been lingering and lingering in our lives. Maybe it's something very small, and we're just asking for forgiveness really quickly after having realized our sin. But the Bible says that we've all fallen short of the glory of God, and we all have sin in our lives.

Once again, in this third short object lesson on prayer, this glass will represent our life or life situation, and this match/candle/flame will represent our prayer of repentance.

This time, we'll use this water here to represent the Holy Spirit, all around us (pour the water in the saucer around the candle).

Now, we'll light the candle and place the glass over top of the candle, so that the rim of the glass rests in the colored water in the saucer.

The flame will burn for a little bit, and then will go out as it uses up all the oxygen. The vacuum created in the glass will "suck up" all the colored water from the saucer, and actually draw it into the glass surrounding the candle.

As our prayer of repentance burns up the sin in our lives, it creates more space for the Fruit of the Holy Spirit to instead fill us up. Repentance takes a lot of humility, as we admit our own weakness, failure, and wrongdoing. That's never easy. But as we humble ourselves before God, it means His work in our lives can flourish! And He has the space and opportunity to use His Holy Spirit to fill us up, replacing the pride and sin.