

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

We need to pray all the time!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that prayer is an important part of following Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:5-15, Prayer

MEMORY VERSE:

"This is how you should pray. Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from sinning when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Prayer was an important part of Jesus' life on earth, and it should be an important part of our lives. Just like you talk to your friends or family every day, prayer is simply how we talk to God. Jesus showed his disciples – and us – how we should pray and how important prayer is.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

We want to make prayer a daily habit. Help us remember always to pray.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"This is how you should pray. Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from sinning when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

"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." Matthew 6:9-13 (NLT)

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Have all the fifth/sixth graders (whatever the oldest age in the room may be) read the verse first. Then add the next grade down and repeat. Add the next grade down, and repeat. Keep repeating until everyone is reading together.

SMALL GROUP:

Ask if anyone has already memorized the Lord's Prayer. Have those kids recite the prayer by themselves, then review it with the other kids.

SKIT

TIME TO PRAY

ITEMS NEEDED:

Sleeping bags and pajamas

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2F

CHARACTERS:

Lily and Alice - Two friends having a sleepover

Lily and Alice enter in pajamas with sleeping bags.

LILY: Thanks again for inviting me over tonight. This has been so much fun!

ALICE: I know! I'm glad we finally got to do a sleepover. Hey, my dad said if we get up in time, he'll take us to get donuts before he goes to the gym.

LILY: What time do we need to be up?

ALICE: He said around seven.

LILY: Hmm, that gives us... three hours to sleep. We can do this!

They lay out their sleeping bags. Lily exits. Alice gets on her knees to pray.

ALICE: Father God in Heaven, your name is holy. May your kingdom come and your will be done on Earth, as it is—

Lily enters with her toothbrush and toothpaste.

LILY: Hey, Alice, who are you talking to?

ALICE: God.

LILY: God? Is He here? I've always wanted to meet that guy.

SKIT

ALICE: He's not here. Well, He is, but He isn't.

LILY: What? That doesn't make any sense.

ALICE: It's hard to explain, but God is always watching and listening, and when I pray, He hears me.

LILY: When you play?

ALICE: When I pray.

LILY: What's that mean?

ALICE: Praying means talking to God. I do it every day, and it helps me to stay close to God.

LILY: So God is far away, but if you get on your knees and talk to Him, He hears you?

ALICE: Exactly!

LILY: No phone? No Internet? No Skype?

ALICE: No none of that. Never needed it, and never will.

LILY: You close your eyes, fold your hands, and just talk to Him?

ALICE: Like I was talking to my Dad or my Grandpa.

LILY: And He hears you?

ALICE: Every word!

LILY: Amazing. Do me a favor, tell Him I said hello, will ya?

ALICE: Tell you what. How about you brush your teeth and join me?

LILY: For real?

ALICE: Sure! He'd love to hear from you.

LILY: Awesome! Keep Him on hold. Tell Him I'll be right back!

Lily runs off.

SKIT

ALICE: He's not on hold. It doesn't work that way.

Alice exits.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

An old rotary phone

Have any of you ever seen one of these phones? Have you ever used one? It wasn't too long ago a lot of your parents and grandparents had several of these tethered to the wall in the house. This was how we made phone calls before cell phones changed everything. There was no directory of contacts. You used an address book or your memory and dialed a number one... digit... at... a... time. It seems pretty primitive compared to the devices in our pockets, but it did the job. You might be in Tampa, and your grandma might be in Seattle, but with one of these on the wall, you were just eleven digits away.

Heaven is a lot further away than Seattle is from Tampa, but we've never needed any device to reach our God. Jesus teaches us today that he wants us to pray daily – not to look holy, not to look spiritual, but just to stay in touch. God wants us to have a relationship with Him, and the key to any good relationship is communication.

We can do it on our knees. We can do it sitting at a desk or the dining room table. We can do it lying in bed. It doesn't matter where we are or what device we carry. Jesus is always a prayer away, and He's listening before we even speak. Let's make prayer a daily habit so we can grow closer to the Lord!

LARGE GROUP GAME

BALANCE POINT

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

Have all the kids stand up. Have them stick their arms out to the sides and lift one leg. See how many kids can stay standing on one foot for one minute, 90 seconds, two minutes. Can anyone outlast the rest of the group?

VARIATION:

If you want to play to the last person standing, wait until you have just a few people left, then start handing them things to balance and hold in their hands, like a stack of dishes.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God wants us to find balance in our lives by taking time to pray as often as we can!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We need to pray all the time!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that prayer is an important part of following Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:5-15, Prayer

INTRO:

How many of you have ever seen a Shakespeare play? William Shakespeare wrote some of the greatest works of literature in the English language. However, if you've ever been to one of his plays, you might have found them hard to understand. Shakespeare's plays were written in poetic form in a style that no one speaks now. To our modern ear it all sounds very fancy and very formal. Have a listen to this speech from Romeo and Juliet:

*O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;
Or if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.*

And here's one from what many say is Shakespeare's greatest play, Hamlet:

*To be, or not to be: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep;
No more.*

Confused? Yeah, you're not the only ones.

There is a beauty and poetry to Shakespeare's words, but let's be honest. No one talks like that. Can you imagine walking into the classroom at school and saying, "Chasten me not with harsh words, dear matron of education, for surely I did post haste completeth my assignment of work at home. Yet no sooner had I partaken of thy

LARGE GORUP LESSON

educational assignment when the hound we openeth our home too found and consumed my handiwork, those precluding me from handing it forth.” For those who are really confused, that was Shakespeare talk for, “The dog ate my homework.”

Many people have the false idea that prayer should be like a Shakespearean production. We are speaking to Almighty God, and we must use big words, fancy words, or else God won't hear us. The truth is God isn't nearly as concerned with the words we use as he is with how often we pray. God wants to hear from us daily. He wants to have a relationship with us, and He does not want us to feel at all intimidated to just shut our eyes and speak to Him. That's the main point Jesus shared when he taught the disciples the prayer we call the Lord's Prayer.

READ MATTHEW 6:5-15

MAIN POINT:

The Lord's Prayer may sound like a lot of fancy words, but it's a very simple and to the point message that shows us what we should say when we pray. We should address God as our Father. We should praise God's name. We should pray for God's will to be done. We should pray for God to provide for our needs. And we should pray that God forgives our sins and helps us to forgive others.

There's no right or wrong way to start or finish. Prayer is simply communicating with God the way we would communicate with a parent or a trusted teacher or a grandparent. Prayer is how we grow closer to God. We see the world through His eyes. We see our part in God's plan, and we strive to serve Him better every day. Prayer is a daily need for a believer, and the more we pray, the stronger our relationship with the Lord will be.

DRIVE IT HOME:

The Lord's Prayer has a lot of meaning to Christians. In many churches, believers join hands and recite this prayer every week. It is a beautiful prayer that truly gives a model for how we should pray. That said, the Lord's Prayer should not be the only prayer we pray. Jesus wants us to pray every day. He wants us to say quick prayers when we need a moment of confidence or courage. He wants us to say longer prayers when we have the time. He wants us to praise God for His blessings. He wants us to ask forgiveness when we mess up.

We can pray on our knees, and we should take the time for these prayers when we can, but we can also pray standing up, sitting down, and even lying in our beds. We can pray with our eyes shut and even with our eyes open. Adults, I hope you hear me. When you're in the car and traffic gets you stressed and you need to stop and pray, do not close your eyes! Your children and the drivers around you would appreciate you praying with your eyes open.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Prayer should happen daily so that every day, we can grow closer to Jesus. I hope all of you will take up the challenge and not only learn how to pray but make it a regular part of your day. You talk to friends every day. Look how close you are. You talk to family every day. Look how close you are. Imagine how close you'll be to Jesus if you talk to Him every day.

Prayer is how we communicate with God. It's how we build our connection to God. Are you ready to make that connection? Let's pray for God to show us all how to pray.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

We want to make prayer a daily habit. Help us remember always to pray.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

How many of you said at least one prayer this morning before coming to church?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 6:9-13

Ask if anyone has already memorized the Lord's Prayer. Have those kids recite the prayer by themselves, then review it with the other kids.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids do a few exercises - some jumping jacks, some jogging in place, and a few toe touches. Remind them that we need to exercise our bodies every day as well as pray every day!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 6:5-15

What does Jesus teach his disciples to do?

Do we need to say special words when we pray?

Is there a certain time and a place that we have to pray?

Can you think of any times or places where we shouldn't pray?

Will prayer help us to get to know God better?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Draw us closer to you with every prayer we say!

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

How many of you said at least one prayer this morning before coming to church?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 6:9-13

Ask if anyone has already memorized the Lord's Prayer. Have those kids recite the prayer by themselves, then review it with the other kids.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids do a few exercises - some jumping jacks, some jogging in place, and a few toe touches. Remind them that we need to exercise our bodies every day as well as pray every day!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 6:5-15

Why did Jesus teach His disciples to pray?

What are some things we should not do when we pray?

Can you think of any times or places where we shouldn't pray? Why or why not?

Why is prayer an important part of our day?

How does prayer draw us closer to God?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Draw us closer to you with every prayer we say!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK - LORD'S PRAYER PRE-TEST

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your _____.

NAME

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on _____ as it is in heaven.

EARTH

Give us today our _____ bread.

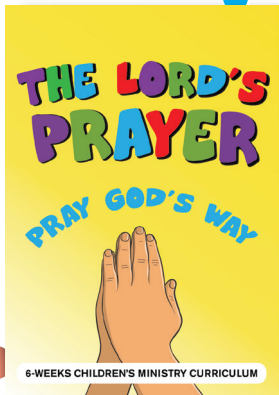
DAILY

And _____ us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

FORGIVE

And lead us not into _____, but deliver us from the evil one.

TEMPTATION



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

The Lord's Prayer Lesson 1

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: HOW YOU SHOULD PRAY



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Prayer was an important part of Jesus' life on earth, and it should be an important part of our lives. Just like you talk to your friends or family every day, prayer is simply how we talk to God. Jesus showed his disciples – and us – how we should pray and how important prayer is. Matthew 6:5-15, Prayer



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

If there's a copy of the Lord's Prayer on display in your home, show it to the kids so they know where it is. If it's not on display, consider printing a copy to post on the fridge for the next few weeks during this series.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did Jesus teach His disciples to pray?
- When and where can we pray?
- How does prayer help us grow closer to God?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"This is how you should pray. Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from sinning when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

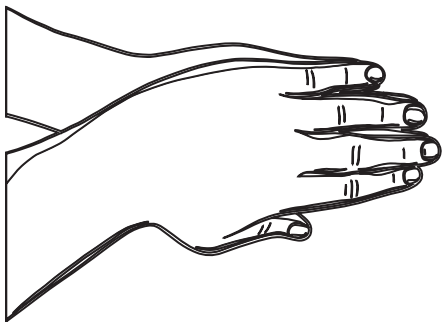


PARENT TIME:

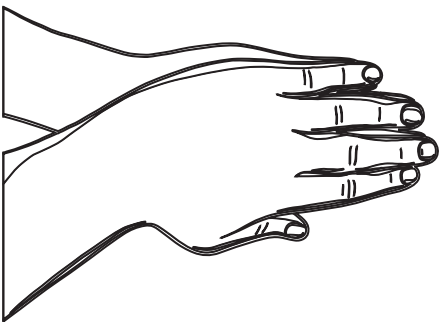
What you need to know: Every good relationship depends on great communication. We must communicate with God if we want to grow our relationship with Him, and prayer is how we do that. Encourage your kids to make prayer a daily habit, and strive to make it a habit of yours as well.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

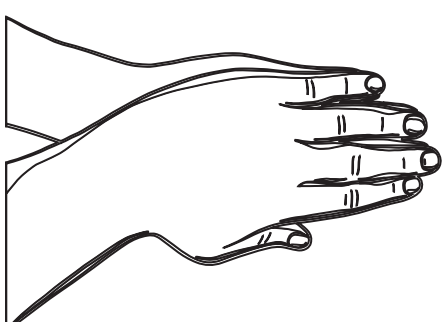
Have the kids trace their hands on two different colored pieces of paper and cut them out. Paste the hands together like praying hands. If possible, glue a magnet to one side so the kids can put their praying hands on the fridge at home.



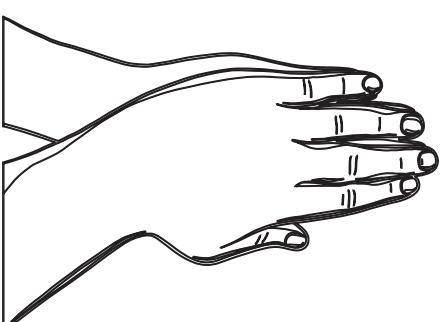
"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." - Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)



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