

Get Ready!

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

By: Marsha Crockett



Text

Luke 11:1-10

Key Quest Verse

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

Bible Background

Jesus emphasized the concept that God is our Father, that He knows everything about us, and that we are objects of the Father's loving care. Believers approach God in prayer not only as to a living Person who is Creator and Ruler of the universe, but also as to their Heavenly Father who has perfect knowledge, unlimited power, and infinite love.

Five kinds or elements of prayer are: adoration (worship), confession, thanksgiving, petition (supplication), and intercession. In adoration, one talks to God about God Himself and tells Him how wonderful He is. In confession, one tells God about wrong things he may have done and accepts His forgiveness. In thanksgiving, we thank God for our blessings. In petition (supplication), we talk to God about our needs. In intercession, we pray to God about other persons. The five kinds of prayer are related to the three factors involved in the two great commandments set forth by Jesus – God, ourselves, and our neighbors (Matthew 22:36-40).

The prayer that Jesus taught His disciples begins with adoration of the Heavenly Father. Adoration is the highest type of prayer. Adoration may be distinguished from praise. In praise, one tells other persons how wonderful God is. In adoration or worship, he tells God Himself how wonderful He is.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

- Know:** That Jesus teaches us how to pray and wants to communicate with us.
- Feel:** That prayer matters to God and makes a difference in our lives.
- Do:** Practice praying according to God’s leading.

Leader’s Devotion

To teach a child to pray may seem a daunting task, yet Jesus used simple words, stories and pictures to explain prayer to His closest followers. And, it was Ignatius of Loyola who simply wrote, “Everything one turns in the direction of God is prayer.” Simple words like Father, bread, forgive, become the heartbeat of a life of prayer. As you prepare your heart to teach this week, identify symbols as reminders to pray and praise your Heavenly Father. A small stone in my pocket or purse reminds me to say, “Lord, you are my rock and my strength.” Children playing hide and seek leads me to pray, “Lord, you are my hiding place.” Looking at a full calendar for the week or the month I pray the prayer of the psalmist, “Give me an undivided heart.” Simply whispering the name of Jesus can make a world of difference in a day and in a life turned in God’s direction.

Get Set!



Option A

STRIKE A POSE

Materials: Polaroid camera and film (enough for approximately a dozen pictures), poster board, glue, props (loaf of bread, fishing pole, rubber snake, rubber bug, an egg, 3 signs that say Ask, Seek and Knock)

Procedure: As students arrive, explain to them that we will be working together on a storyboard based on Luke 11:1-10. Ask them to find the passage in their Bibles and read through it with a friend. Once your group has gathered, explain to them the concept of a storyboard. This is what individuals do who lay out a story idea that might be put to film or made into a book later. It gives the creator a “picture” of how the story progresses and what each scene will look like. It’s also a good visual reminder of stories and events that have already been written or spoken, like the words and stories Jesus used to teach us about praying. Divide the Bible passage up into scenes that would allow students to pose and have a Polaroid picture taken of that segment of the story. You might want to print these scenes out ahead of time and give them to small groups to work on costumes and settings for their photo shoot. Suggested scene ideas could include:

Scene 1: Luke 11:1. Jesus praying in a certain place. One student representing Jesus praying on his/her knees.

Scene 2: Luke 11:1. When he finished praying, one disciple (or one gesturing as if speaking to Jesus with other disciples around) asking, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Scene 3: Luke 11:5. One person knocking on a door; family on the other side sleeping.

Scene 4: Luke 11:8. Person sleeping inside now stands at door with loaf of bread to give to neighbor who was knocking.

Scene 5: Luke 11:9. Individual holding a sign that says “ASK” with a questioning look on his/her face.

Scene 6: Luke 11:9. Individual holding a sign that says “SEEK.” Person could hold hand above eyes as if searching the horizon.

Scene 7: Luke 11:9. Individual holding a sign that says “KNOCK.” Imitate knocking on a door.

Scene 8: Luke 11:11. Smaller boy holding an empty fishing pole with hands out to father. Father holding out a rubber snake to the boy. Boy should have a confused or disgusted look on his face.

Scene 9: Luke 11:12. Boy holding one egg, with other hand out asking for another egg. Father offering a rubber bug instead. Boy looks confused or disgusted again.

Scene 10: Luke 11:13. Mother and father holding a wrapped gift out to a child who is surprised and smiling.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Option B****PERSONAL PRAYER**

Materials: Several Bible translations, a dictionary or Bible Dictionary or Concordance

Procedure: Use the storyboard made last week to review the Bible passage. Ask the students to open their Bibles to Matthew 6:9-13. This is the version of the Lord’s Prayer that people are most familiar with. Bring several different Bible translations to class and allow the students to read and compare the versions to help better understand the prayer. Also, have a dictionary or concordance handy to look up words such as “hallowed” or “trespasses,” etc.

Ask the students to brainstorm ideas about how Jesus’ prayer is a good model for us to use in our own prayers. Write their ideas on a board or on newsprint as they share them. This is a brainstorming session, so try not to discourage any serious sharing, even if it is a little off track. (Ideas might include: talking to God about everything; asking God for what we need; seeking His protection; wanting what He wants; nothing is too small to ask for, even a piece of bread; praise and worship; relationships, etc.)

After they have a good handle on what the words and ideas of this model prayer mean, ask them to help you rewrite the prayer in our more modern way of talking, and personalizing it as you go.

(Example: “Hey, God, it’s amazing to think about You as a dad to me, because You’re perfect in every way. I want You in my life, in my world, so that some of heaven touches me and those around me. Since nothing is too hard for You, I ask simply that You give me what I need to be strong and healthy. And, I need help with some tough situations and tough people, both in my family and at my school. Help me be like You, ready and willing to forgive and start again. There’s a lot of junk out there to deal with, God, and it’s hard not to step in it sometimes. Please keep me on Your path, so that I don’t have to deal with the messes that other people like to make in life. Thanks for always listening and being there for me. Amen.”)

Depending on your students, this can also be adapted as a journal experience and quiet time of prayer. You may want to even light a couple of candles and sing a quiet chorus to help students focus their thoughts on God.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!

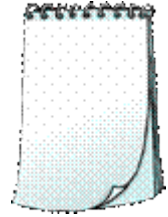


Bible Story

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Ask your students to open their Bibles to Matthew 6:9-13.

Matthew 6:9-13 reads, “This 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. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’”

Go!**Prayer Walk****MOVEMENT**

Materials: Pad of paper for each student and a pencil for each student

Quest Connection

Tell your students that you will be taking a walk around the church, both inside and out, for the purpose of praying for every aspect of the church and the surrounding areas. Give them each a small pad of paper to write down prayer ideas and people to pray for at each stop.

Procedure:

Stop 1— Front Doors: If weather permits, go outside and start at the front door of the church. Ask the students what they think of when they see the front doors of a church. This is the place where people enter into God’s House, a place where people come to know God. It’s where we bring our friends or neighbors. And, it’s also where we go out after a service to serve God. Ask one or two students to pray for the people who come and go through the doors.

Stop 2 – The Sanctuary: (you may need to stand just outside the sanctuary if classes or other activities are going on.) Talk about what goes on in the sanctuary (worship, singing, preaching, talking, prayer, etc.) Have the kids jot down those things in their notebooks and pray for specific church members who are involved in ministry in the sanctuary.

Stop 3 – The Pastor/Staff Offices: Write down the names of everyone on staff at your church or everyone who is directly connected to children’s ministry. Ask each child to choose one person who serves at your church to pray for during the week. Have them write that name down on their notebook.

Stop 4 – The Nursery: Pray for the babies and the families of the children who are in the nursery, as well as those who love the babies each week.

Stop 5 – The Kitchen: This is the place where we encourage fellowship and we make meals to share together. It’s where we work together and grow to know each other. Pray that God will bless the fellowship and relationships of all the members of your church.

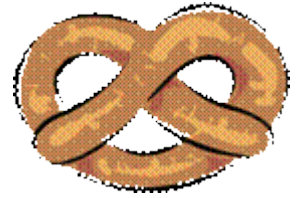
Stop 6 – The Classrooms: As you pass various rooms where classes are held, stop and pray for them.

Stop 7 – Your Own Classroom: Before you go back into your classroom, ask the students to join hands and silently pray for the person on their right, and then on their left. Close the prayer walk by asking God to bless your students. If the class is not too large, pray for each child by name and offer them God’s blessing.

Close

After you return to the room, ask the students to talk about what they liked about the prayer walk. How did it help them in their prayer life? Did it change their views of what happens at church and how they can help? Remind them that prayer makes a difference in their lives and in the life of the church. This is an important ministry that they can continue to carry out each week, even from home.



Go!**Prayer Pretzels**

FOOD: Be sure to check for food allergies!

Materials: 1/2 tablespoon yeast, 2 cups flour, 3/4 cups water, 1/2 tablespoon salt, 1/2 tablespoon sugar, 1 beaten egg for glaze, utensils

Quest Connection

Why do some people fold their hands when they pray? Why do some kneel? These are symbols of submitting ourselves to God, allowing Him to lead. Our empty hands reflect our need to receive God’s love.

Procedure: Bring the pre-measured ingredients and utensils needed to make the Prayer Pretzels using the recipe from the Resource Pages. Shape pretzels from dough to spell out the words “PRAISE GOD” or “PRAY ALWAYS” or simply shape the letters of the alphabet. Use each letter to express your praise and prayer to God. (Example: P – “I praise You, God, for Your Power.” R – “God, You are Righteous.” A – “And You are always with me,” etc.) The recipe will make approximately 10 letters. Double the recipe to make more letters. If you have access to an oven, make and bake the pretzels during class time. Otherwise, mix the dough and let the kids make the shapes. Set their letters on a piece of waxed paper or aluminum pie pans so they can carry the dough home to bake. Bring a finished batch of pretzels to eat during class and to use as prayer prompts. Photocopy this recipe to give to each child to take and try at home.

Close

After you’ve made the pretzels, or before you’re ready to eat the baked one, look at the pretzel as a symbol of prayer. **It twists and intertwines just as our lives are woven together with God as we come to Him in prayer. The ends of the pretzels, like hands, are folded together.**

Go!**Prayerobics****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: Several small tables, 5-6 adult helpers, signs reading: Praise; The Name; Forgiveness; Thanksgiving; Requests, Just Pray, 6 candles, paper, pencils, Bibles for each station, Resource Pages

Quest Connection

We are going to move around to different stations to practice different aspects of prayer.

Procedure: Set the room up with several small tables. Invite five or six adults who represent “trainers” in prayerobics. The trainers will be assigned to each station to guide the children through the activity and to pray with the children. Label each station with a prayer focus as follows: (Praise, The Name, Forgiveness, Thanksgiving, Requests, Just Pray). Light a candle at each station and provide paper, pencils, Bibles, etc., for use during the station. Explain to the students that they will spend only two or three minutes at each station, or if they choose, they may stay longer at a certain station to pray longer to God or with the trainer. See the Resource Pages for instruction cards for each station.

Close

This activity may take 15-20 minutes. Once everyone has made it through each of the stations, invite the children to gather back together and discuss their experience. **Which type of prayer was difficult for you? What did you like best about this experience?**

Go!**Illustrated Lord's Prayer**

ART

Materials: Bibles, paper, pencils, overhead projector, transparencies**Quest Connection**

Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 6:9-13 to learn more about the Lord's Prayer.

Procedure: Assign a word or phrase from the Lord's prayer, or from the passage in Luke 11:1-10 to individuals or to small groups. Have them draw a simple sketch to illustrate the verse or phrase they are given. After they agree on a sketch, have them draw it on an overhead projector transparency to be used during the lesson.

Close

After everyone has finished their transparencies, dim the lighting in the room and have everyone gather together to pray the prayer together. Pause at each phrase to think about the illustration. Then continue on to the next. Thank the children for helping to make the words of Jesus come to life for the class.

Go!

Words to Pray By**CHRISTIAN LIVING**

Materials: Bibles, Resource Page

Quest Connection

Let's open our Bibles to Luke 11:1-10. Use this text to find the unscrambled words on this worksheet.

Procedure: Use the worksheet to unscramble and find words from our Bible passage in Luke 11:1-10.

(Answers to scrambled words are: hallowed, evil, kingdom, teach, snake, knock. Possible words to create from The Lord's Prayer are: spray, ray, drop, stop, help, yes, rest, days, trap, let, heat, heart, shore, she, dry, leash, and a dozen others).

Close

Searching for words is a reminder that we must always seek God with our whole hearts. Ask, seek and knock.

Go!**Sign Language****CHRISTIAN LIVING****Materials:** Resource Page**Quest Connection**

We are going to learn how to communicate with our hands, which is called sign language. Watch me, then repeat after me.

Procedure: Older elementary age children love sign language and will enjoy spending time learning some of the signs to pray the Lord's Prayer. If possible, invite someone who uses sign language in everyday life to come and visit the class and help them learn the Lord's Prayer. If you need help or want to practice some signing before class, many words and video clips of the signs are available on an American Sign Language browser at www.commtechlab.msu.edu/site/aslweb/browser.html.

Signing is done primarily with the right hand. All the words to the Lord's prayer are included in the Resource Pages, but for some of the grade levels, you may want to focus on only some of the important words which are marked with an asterisk *.

Close

Once they have learned these signs, it would be encouraging to them have them say it (and sign it) for the congregation or other gathering. After the students have learned some or all of the prayer, talk about how people of every country and language can speak to God and how much He loves them.

Sign Language

OUR – A cupped right hand moves from the right shoulder to the left shoulder.

***FATHER** – Both fists are tightly closed on the right side of the head. The hands open up as the arms move toward the sky.

WHO – Circle mouth with right hand.

ART IN – Left hand makes a fist. Right hand pokes two fingers in.

***HEAVEN** – Palms out, make two big circles starting in the middle and pulling both arms around to the outside.

***HALLOWED** – (holy) Move right hand over left palm.

BE – Make the letter “B” with the right hand and move it from the lips outward. (The letter “B” is made by tucking the thumb in, and extending the other four fingers.)

THY – Push right hand, palm out, toward heaven.

***NAME** – Extend index and middle finger of both hands. Cross the hands to form an “X.”

THY – Push right hand, palm out, toward heaven.

***KINGDOM** – Make a “K” with the right hand. Move it from the left shoulder down toward the right side of the waist and then around the bottom toward the left over the left hand. (A “K” is made by extending the index and middle fingers [like the number 2] and putting the thumb up through. The pinky and ring fingers stay close to the palm.)

***COME** – Index and middle fingers of each hand out to the right and then pulled in toward body.

THY – Push right hand, palm out, toward heaven.

***WILL BE** – Make the letter “B” with the right hand and move it from the lips outward. (The letter “B” is made by tucking the thumb in, and extending the other four fingers.)

DONE – Both hands with palms facing down and fingers relaxed move from side to side.

ON – Right hand on top of left hand.

***EARTH** – Left hand makes a fist. Right hand puts middle finger and thumb on the fist and then rocks back and forth.

AS IT IS – Right hand makes a fist with pinky extended. Bring hand from the chin outward.

IN – Left hand makes a fist. Right hand pokes two fingers in.

***HEAVEN** – Palms out, make two big circles starting in the middle and pulling both arms around to the outside.

***GIVE** – Cup hands and pull them in to the body.

US – Index finger of right hand circles from right shoulder to left shoulder.

***THIS DAY** – Left arm is bent and across the waist. Right arm points index finger, rests elbow on left hand, and then moves hand down to left elbow as if the sun were setting.

OUR – A cupped right hand moves from the right shoulder to the left shoulder.

DAILY – Make a fist with right hand and rub the right side of face.

***BREAD** – Left hand makes a fist and right hand slices it twice.

AND – Begin with right hand open across the body at a right angle. Bring it across the body at the same time as it is being closed so all fingers meet.

Sign Language

***FORGIVE** – Right hand strokes the left palm two times.

US – Index finger of right hand circles from right shoulder to left shoulder.

OUR – A cupped right hand moves from the right shoulder to the left shoulder.

***TRESSPASSES** – Point both index fingers. Draw a heart in the air in front of the body.

AS WE – Index finger of right hand circles from right shoulder to left shoulder.

***FORGIVE** – Right hand strokes the left hand two times.

THOSE – Point to audience three times.

WHO – Circle mouth with right hand.

***TRESSPASS** – Point both index fingers. Draw a heart in the air in front of the body.

***AGAINST** – Extend left hand so it is like a wall. Run right hand into it.

US – Index finger of right hand circles from right shoulder to left shoulder.

AND – Begin with right hand open across the body at a right angle. Bring it across the body at the same time as it is being closed so all fingers meet.

***LEAD** – Left hand pulls right hand.

US – Index finger of right hand circles from right shoulder to left shoulder.

NOT – Make a fist with right hand, thumb out. Pull the thumb from the chin outward.

INTO – Left hand makes a fist. Right hand pokes two fingers in.

***TEMPTATION** – Point to left elbow with right hand.

BUT – Cross index fingers and then pull apart about 6 inches.

***DELIVER** – Start with arms crossed and index fingers extended. Pull away to shoulders.

US – Index finger of right hand circles from right shoulder to left shoulder.

FROM – Hold left index finger up. Curve the right index finger and place it near the left finger. Pull the right hand away toward the body.

***EVIL** – Touch lips with right palm, then put down and away as if squashing bad words.

FOR – Right index finger moves in an arc from head up to the sky.

THINE – Raise right hand toward heaven.

IS – Right hand makes a fist with pinky extended up. Bring the hand from the chin outward.

***THE KINGDOM** – Make a “K” with the right hand. Move it from the left shoulder down toward the right side of the waist and then around the bottom toward the left over the left hand.

***THE POWER** – Make a fist with right hand. Move it from left shoulder to left elbow as if pantomiming a muscle.

AND – Begin with right hand open across the body at a right angle. Bring it across the body at the same time as it is being closed so all fingers meet.

***THE GLORY** – Hold left hand so palm is facing up. Start with right hand touching left palm, then wiggle fingers while bringing hand upward.

***FOREVER** – With right hand index finger, draw a circle, then make the letter “Y” and push it outward. The letter “Y” is made by extending the thumb and pinky and tucking in the other three fingers.

***AMEN** – Praying hands.

Resource Page

PRAYER PRETZEL RECIPE

Ingredients: $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon yeast

 2 cups flour

 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups water

 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon salt

 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon sugar

 1 beaten egg for glaze

Mix yeast, water, salt and sugar. Gradually mix in flour and knead dough 3-4 minutes. Roll into long snakelike pieces. Take each piece and form it into one of the letters to spell PRAISE GOD or PRAY ALWAYS, or simply form as many letters of the alphabet as possible. Brush the letters with the egg and sprinkle additional salt on top. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes.

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STATION ONE – PRAISE

“I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High” (Psalm 9:1-2).

There are lots of words to describe our wonderful God. Think of a word and, using markers, creatively write that word on the poster board that says “PRAISE,” (Examples: awesome, strong, good, loving, etc.) After they write a word, encourage the children to think about how writing that word was a prayer. We don’t always have to close our eyes and bow our heads, but can pray with our lives in many ways. If time permits, let the students write another word or note of praise to God.

STATION TWO – THE NAME

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Revelation 5:12b).

Jesus is given many names that help us know who He is as we get to know Him better. Choose three names from the list below, and thank Him for being who He is. Can you think of others?

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Alpha and Omega (beginning and the end) | Head of the Church |
| Beloved Son | Light of the World |
| Bread of Life | The Word |
| Counselor | Savior |
| Deliverer | Mediator |
| Chosen of God | Lamb of God |
| Son of the Most High | Immanuel |
| Good Shepherd | Lord of Lords |

STATION THREE – THANKSGIVING

“Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Draw a large tree out of butcher paper to hang on the wall near this station. Ahead of time, draw leaves on 3x5 sections of colored paper. Ask the students to write one word for something they are thankful for. They can cut out the leaf and tape it up on the prayer tree. Encourage them to make more than one leaf as time permits.

STATION FOUR – FORGIVENESS

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Give a card to each student and ask them to silently read through it, and pray through it, asking God to forgive any sin or wrongdoing. After their time of confession, remind them that all our sins placed in God’s hands are wiped clean and washed away, and He never stops loving us.

1. Have you ever done something your parents did not want you to do? Speak to God about it silently.
2. Have you talked badly about someone behind their back? What does God want you to do about it?
3. Have you taken something that wasn’t yours? Don’t make excuses or try to hide it from God. Just tell Him you’re sorry you did it.
4. Have you ever lied? Ask God to forgive you and help you to keep from doing it again.
5. Have you ever cheated on a test? Give this wrongdoing to God and ask Him to teach you to do right in the future.
6. Are there any other sins that you want to talk to God about?

STATION FIVE – REQUESTS

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18).

Give each child an individual 3x5 card or slip of paper. Encourage them to think of five individuals who need prayer. Write down the names on the slip of paper and let them fold up the paper to put in their pocket or in a purse, or simply to take home as a reminder to pray for them each day. As time permits, explain that the word “saints” in this verse means all believers.

STATION SIX – JUST PRAY!

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

Use paper to include in your journals and encourage students to draw or write something that they believe God is leading them to think about or change or do. It may be how they treat a family member or classmate. It may be to apologize to someone for something, or it may be to simply spend time with God each day.

Resource Page

PRAYER PUZZLES

1. Unscramble the words below from our Bible passage in Luke 11:1-10.

LOWHLADE _____

VILE _____

DOMINGK _____

THECA _____

KANSE _____

NCKOK _____

2. How many words (three or more letters) can you make using the words

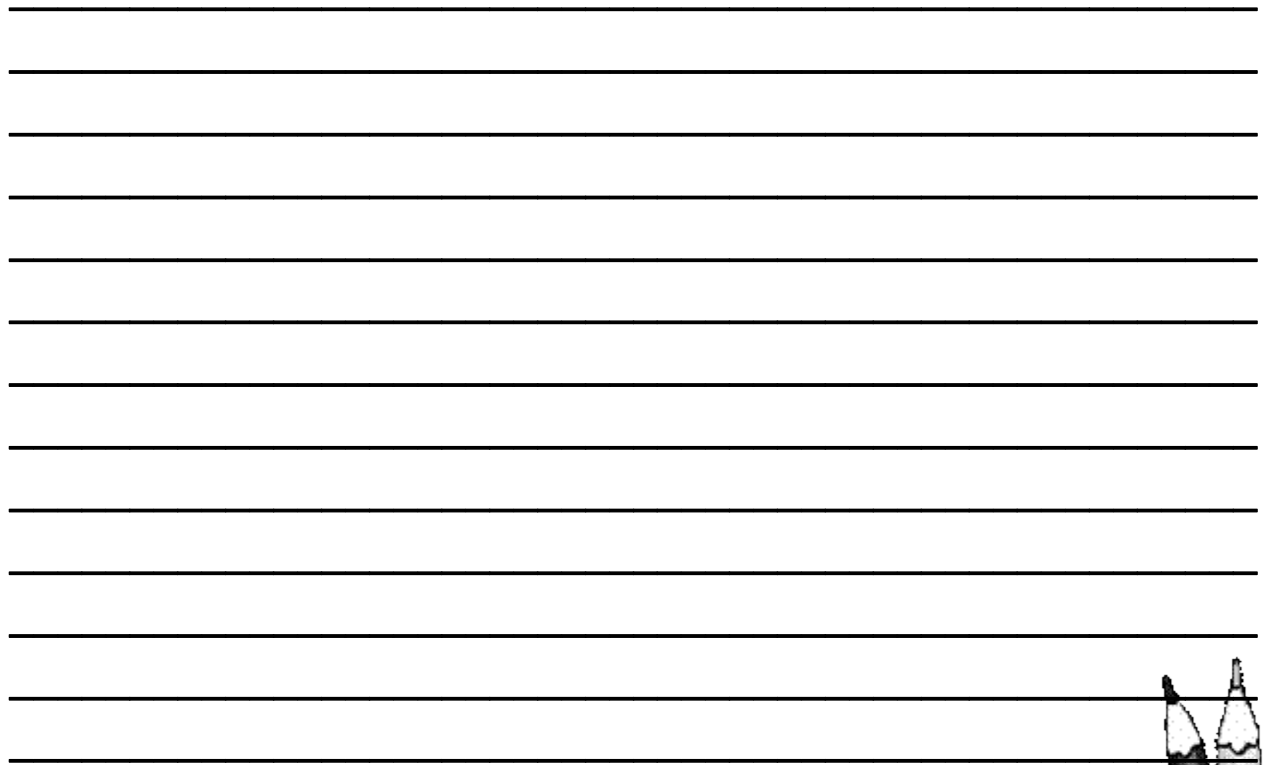
THE LORD'S PRAYER



Journal Page

Write your own personal prayer to God. Talk to Him about anything you want to.

Dear Lord,



In Jesus' name,
Amen.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

