

Get Ready!

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

By: Linda Carlblom



Text

Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

Key Quest Verse

“Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).

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: God loves when we talk to Him.

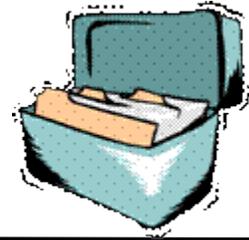
Feel: They can talk to God like a friend.

Do: Pray aloud and/or silently.

Leader's Devotion

Prayer is sometimes taken for granted. How often I toss up a casual, “Thanks, God,” without really thinking about to whom I am speaking. To think that we have the privilege of speaking to the Creator of the universe! Someone who allowed His Son to die for me when I was at my worst. It’s incredible! But God loves our friendship and wants to be in fellowship with us. Because of Jesus’ work on the cross, we can approach His throne of grace with confidence (Heb. 4:16).

As you teach these little ones to pray, remember God’s great love, which has been lavished on each of us. Spend time in prayer for each of your students.

Get Set!**Option A****YOU'RE LEARNING!**

Materials: Three index cards: one with the letter A, another with the number one, and the third with the color red on it

Procedure: Let's play a short game. Who can tell me what letter this is? Hold up the letter A. Good! How about this? Does anyone know what number this is? Hold up the number 1. That's right. I have one more. What color is this? Hold up red card. It's red, isn't it? You children are learning so many things! I bet some of you are even learning to write your name. Can someone tell me why we don't play in the street? That's right. A car could come and hurt us. You're learning about safety. Learning letters, numbers, writing, colors, and safety are all very important things that you're getting big enough to know and understand. There's something else we all need to learn. We need to learn to pray.

Story Tie-In: In our Bible Story today, the disciples wanted to learn to pray. Jesus showed them how. Let's listen.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B**WHAT DOES PRAYER LOOK LIKE?**

Materials: None



Procedure: I'm going to show you some actions one at a time. When you think you know what I'm doing, raise your hand. Fold your hands. Close your eyes. Bow your head. What was I doing? That's right! I was praying. The things I just did are things we can do to help us think about God before we begin praying. If we fold our hands, we won't be tempted to do other things with them. If we close our eyes, we won't see anything that might distract us from thinking about God. And if we bow our heads, it shows God we honor Him.

Story Tie-In: We all have things to learn about prayer. Even Jesus' disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Here's what He told them.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!

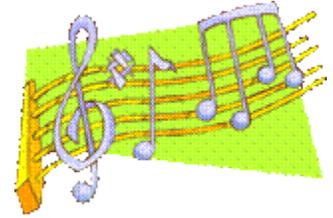
Bible Story

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

One day when Jesus was with His disciples, He talked to them about prayer. They had heard Jesus pray and they wanted to learn to pray, too. The disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” He told them, “When you pray, don’t show off by using fancy words or by trying to look important. Use words you know and understand. Then God will know they come from your heart.” He said, “Pray like this:

Our Father who lives in heaven,
Your name is very special.
Send us Your kingdom and
please decide what’s best for our world and me.
Provide us with food and whatever we need each day.
Forgive us when we do wrong.
Help us to forgive others and
help us not to sin.
Amen.”

When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, He was teaching us, too! We can pray like Jesus showed us.

Go!**Pray, Pray, Pray Your Prayers**

MUSIC

Materials: None

Quest Connection

Let's sing a song to remind us to pray our prayers.

Procedure: Sing to “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”

Pray, Pray, Pray your prayers,
Each and every day,
Tell God what is in your heart.
He hears you when you pray.

Close

Prayer: **Thank You, Lord, for reminding us to pray. We like talking to You. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Go!**Wishing and Praying****OBJECT LESSON****Materials:** A bowl, pennies**Quest Connection**

There's a big difference between wishing and praying. Wishing wells don't have ears to hear or hearts to care. God hears and answers our prayers because He loves us.

Procedure: Tell the children that the bowl is a wishing well. Tell the kids to make a wish and then try to toss a penny into the bowl. If the penny lands in the bowl, your wish is supposed come true. If it doesn't, then it won't. Leave the pennies that land outside the bowl on the floor. After all the pennies are tossed, ask the kids, **What's the difference between wishing and praying? Do you think this wishing well can hear and answer our wishes? Can God hear and answer our prayers?** Play the game again, but this time, have children say a sentence prayer before tossing each penny. For instance, "Help Grandpa to feel better," or "Thank You for my family."

Teacher Tip: If your students are very young and may be tempted to put the pennies in their mouths, use a laundry basket for the wishing well and tennis balls instead of pennies.

Close

God is much better than a wishing well. He listens to our prayers and answers them.

Go!**Prayer Time****CIRCLE TIME****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

Sometimes it's easier to learn to pray when we have a poem to say together. It doesn't matter what you say when you pray, just as long as you remember to talk to God about what's important to you.

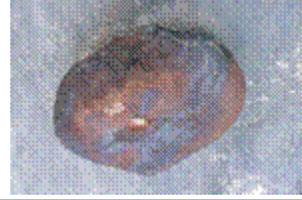
Procedure: Help the children learn one or more of these simple prayers. Encourage them to fold their hands and close their eyes to shut out distractions.

1. When I fold my hands to pray,
I close my eyes and pray,
Thank You, God, for helping me
Be more like You each day.
2. Thank You for the world so sweet.
Thank You for the food we eat.
Thank You for the birds that sing.
Thank You, God, for everything.
3. For all we eat,
For all we wear,
For all thy goodness everywhere,
Thank You, dear Jesus,
Amen.
4. I'm sorry when I do things wrong,
Please forgive my sins.
I know You love me anyway
That's why we're such good friends.

Close

Why do we pray? God loves to talk with us. He cares about what we think and feel. Let's stand in a circle and hold hands. This is called a prayer circle. Let's each pray one thing to God and when we've all had a turn, we can say amen together.

Go!



Prayer Rock

ARTS/CRAFTS

Materials: A rock, paints or markers, a square of fabric, ribbon or raffia

Quest Connection

Do you ever forget to talk to God? Everyone does sometimes. But, we can make something that will remind us to pray our prayers every day.

Procedure: Before class: Type the following poem onto a piece of paper. Cut around the edge of the paper using scissors that will make a pretty edge.

Prayer Rock

I'm your little prayer rock and this is what I'll do.
 Just put me on your pillow 'til the day is through.
 Then turn back the covers and climb in your bed.
 And "WHACK," your little prayer rock will hit you in the head.
 Then you will remember as the day is through,
 to kneel and say your prayers as you wanted to.
 Then when you are finished, just dump me on the floor.
 I'll stay there through the night to give you help once more.
 When you get up in the morning, "CLUNK," I'll stub your toe.
 So you will remember your morning prayers before you go.
 Put me back upon your pillow when your bed is made.
 Your clever little prayer rock will continue to be your aid.
 Because your heavenly Father cares and loves you so.
 He wants you to remember to talk to Him, you know

During class: Give each child a rock. Tell them it is going to be their prayer rock and they can decorate it with paints or markers any way they choose. When they're done, place the rock onto the center of the fabric square. Bring the corners of the material together around the rock. Punch a hole in the top corner of the poem. Put a piece of ribbon through the hole and tie it around the material with the rock in the center.

Close

God is so special we never want to forget about Him. One way we can remember God is by talking to Him. Our prayer rocks will help us remember to do that.

Go!**Praying Hands****ARTS/CRAFTS**

Materials: Construction paper, small square of white paper, glue

Quest Connection

Jesus taught us how to pray. Folding our hands to pray reminds us to stop our busy hands and think about God when we talk to Him.

Procedure: On a folded piece of construction paper, place child's little finger against the fold and trace around his hand with his fingers together. Cut out the praying hand, being careful not to cut along the fold. Open up the hands. On the inside, glue the white piece of paper and write the Key Quest Verse on it. Or, if you prefer, type out the Lord's Prayer on the paper ahead of time and glue it inside the hands.

Close

Praying is one of the most important things you can do. You're big enough to do this important thing. Let's pray a prayer to thank God for all His blessings.

Go!**Say What?****GAME****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He told them just what things to tell God.

Procedure: Let's play a listening game. I'm going to say some things and you see if they match what Jesus said in His prayer. First I'll read His prayer to you, so you remember what it says.

“Father, Your name is special.
I want You to decide what's best for our world and me.
Provide us with food and whatever we need each day.
Forgive us when we do wrong and help us to forgive others.
Help us not to sin.”

Repeat one or two lines of the prayer and see if they remember hearing it. Then, say one of the following lines and see if they think it was part of Jesus' prayer:

I wish I had a dog.
My favorite color is blue.
When I grow up I want to be a pastor.
I never get to be first.

Close

You were such good listeners to remember which lines were part of the Lord's Prayer. God is a great listener, too. He always hears our prayers.

Go!

Did God Hear That?**GAME****Materials:** None

Quest Connection

God hears our prayers if we say them out loud or if we just think them.

Procedure: Tell the kids you're going to see how well they can hear. Proceed to say, **Thank You, Jesus** in a very loud voice. Ask them if they could hear you. Repeat the same process using a regular voice, then a whisper. Finally, just *think* the phrase and ask the kids if they heard you. Why or why not? We can't hear thoughts, can we?

Close

Even though we can't hear our prayers when we think them or say them softly, God can.

Journal Page

What is the one thing you need God's help with right now? Draw a picture of it and then ask God for His help.



Circle the pictures of what Jesus taught us to do.



Trace the word below. What did Jesus teach us to do?

Pray

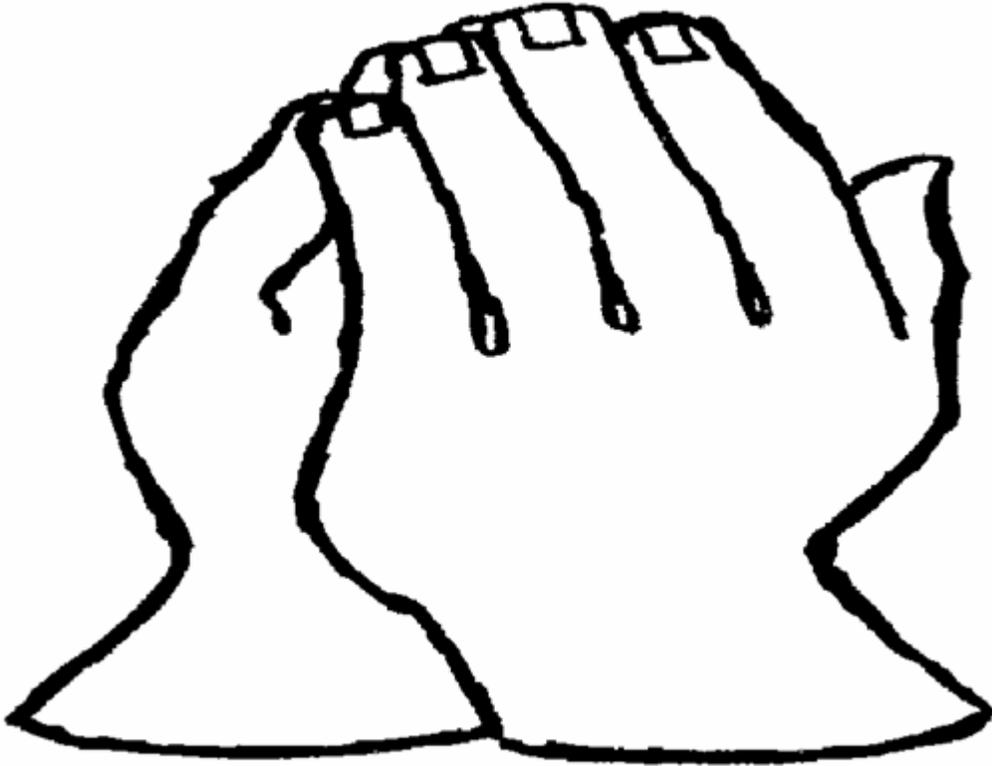


“Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).

What three things can we do to help us think about God when we pray? Circle them.



*Color the praying hands below. Then
draw something you are thankful for.*



Thank You, Lord, for . . .