

Week of June 6, 2010

Lessons for the Leader

Can you complete the following prayers? "Now I lay me ..." or "God is great, God is" Who taught you to pray? When did you learn you could pray and God would hear your prayers?

- Read Matthew 6:5-8. Jesus' teaching on prayer is part of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus used this time to teach His disciples the importance of prayer. Notice the contrasts Jesus used to teach about prayer. How would Jesus evaluate your prayer life?
- Read verses 9-13. Notice how Jesus began His prayer with adoration to God. Prayer should include an expression on the greatness of God. Second, Jesus sought God's will. How often do you pray, asking God to grant your requests that may not be a part of His will? Third, Jesus included a petition. He was specific in His request. How specific are you with your requests to God? Fourth, Jesus taught to ask for forgiveness. Notice that the forgiveness was based upon the person's willingness to forgive. Fifth, notice the prayer for protection against temptation. Finally, notice Jesus concludes the same as He began—with praise.
- Evaluate your prayers with the teaching of Jesus. Do your prayers include these elements? How do you think your prayer life would be impacted if your prayers were more than "God, give me ..." or "God, help me ..."?

Practice following the format Jesus outlined. In your prayer, include petitions for each child in your ministry. Ask God to guide you as you teach children about the importance of prayer. Spend time praising God for who He is and what He has done in your life.

What do these symbols mean?

- 1 → Application Activities Format:** Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.
- 1** Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.



The Model Prayer

Focus Passage: Matthew 6:5-13

Key Bible Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Life Application

I can learn to pray.

Level of Biblical Learning (God)

God hears and answers prayer.

Session at a Glance

Introduction to Worship (6 to 8 minutes)

Welcome

Play "Stomp, Clap, Stomp"

Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

Sing "Love the Lord"

Sing "Lift Your Name Up"/Receive

Offering/Pray

Call to Worship

Define Prayer

Sing "We Are Amazed"

Tell the Bible Story

Pray

Use Worship Guides

Make Life Application

Sing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Show "Jack Spade" Video #1

Discuss the Key Bible Verse/Write Prayers

Application Activities (20 minutes)

Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

Introduction to Worship

8 → Tell the Bible Story (8 minutes)

1 → Welcome the Children

2 → Play "Stomp, Clap, Stomp"

- Explain: "I will stomp and clap a pattern. Let's see if you can copy my pattern."
- Stomp and clap out patterns for the children to repeat.
- Invite volunteers to stomp and clap patterns for the group to follow.
- Conclude: "In order to know the patterns, we had to pay attention and watch. Today we will learn how the disciples learned to pray by watching Jesus."

Worship

3 Sing "Love the Lord" (DVD, 3 minutes)

4 → Sing "Lift Your Name Up" (DVD, 3 minutes)/
Receive Offering/Pray

5 Call to Worship (2 minutes)

- Select a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 46:1-3.
- Ask: "What do these verses teach us about God?"

6 → Define Prayer (2 minutes)

Pull It Together

Poster board, marker

- Write on the poster board the following definition:
Prayer: talking to and listening to God.

Teacher Tip

Save the poster to use throughout this unit of study.

- Ask: "If someone asked us to define *prayer*, what should we say? Does God hear our prayers? Does God answer our prayers? What should we pray about? How do we learn to pray?"
- Display the prayer poster.
- Select a volunteer to read aloud the definition.
- Explain: "Prayer is not only talking to God, it is also listening to God. Today we will discover how Jesus taught the disciples to pray."

7 → Sing "We Are Amazed" (DVD, 3 minutes)

Pull It Together

Scissors, tape, poster board, marker

- Print "Prayer" Teaching Picture (CD). Display.
- Print "Prayer Words" (CD). Cut apart.
- Write the words of Matthew 6:5-13 ("The Model Prayer") on the poster board.

- Lead children to open their Bibles to Matthew 6.
- Call attention to the teaching picture.
- Enlist volunteers to place the words on the wall as directed.
- Say: "Our Bible story is part of the Sermon on the Mount. During this teaching time, Jesus taught how God wants people to live. Jesus taught about being angry, telling the truth, loving your enemies, and giving. Now Jesus is teaching the people how to pray. Let's read what the passage tells us about prayer."

The Model Prayer

Based on Matthew 6:5-13

- *Select a child to read aloud Matthew 6:5.*
- Say: "Jesus began this part of His teaching by giving a warning. He said we should be careful when praying in front of others. God does not like when people do things to show off."
- *Select a child to read aloud Matthew 6:6-8.*
- Say: "Jesus wants us to pray as if no one else is around us. He wants us to talk to and listen to God. We should be honest and sincere in the way we pray."
- *Select a child to read aloud Matthew 6:9.*
Attach the "Praise" sign to the wall.
- Say: "When we pray, we should begin with praise. We can praise God for who He is and what He does for us."
- Ask: "What does it mean to *praise*?" (*to express honor and gratitude to God*)
- *Select a child to read aloud Matthew 6:10.*
Attach the "God's Way" sign to the wall.
- Say: "Secondly, Jesus taught to pray for God's will to be done. Jesus wants what God desires to happen. When we pray, we should ask for things to happen according to God's plan, not ours."

- *Select a child to read aloud Matthew 6:11. Attach the "Petition" sign to the wall.*
- Say: "Jesus taught to ask God to meet daily needs. Jesus wants us to be specific in what we ask from God. A *petition* is 'something we ask for.' We can ask God for anything we need, but we need to remember to put God's will first."
- *Select a child to read aloud Matthew 6:12. Attach the "Forgiveness" sign to the wall.*
- Say: "Next, Jesus taught to ask for forgiveness. Notice that Jesus also said, 'as we forgive.' Jesus taught us that we should forgive people who do things to us."
- *Select a child to read aloud Matthew 6:13a. Attach the "Protection" sign to the wall.*
- Say: "Jesus said we should pray for protection against temptation. Jesus knows we will be tempted, but we do not have to give in to the temptation."
- *Select a child to read aloud Matthew 6:13b. Attach the "Praise" sign to the wall.*
- Say: "Jesus ended as He began—with praise. Let's all say this prayer together."
- *Display "Model Prayer Poster." Lead the children to read aloud from the poster.*

9 → Pray (2 minutes)

- Use the format Jesus outlined.

10 → Use Worship Guides (6 minutes)

Pull It Together

Worship Guides, pencils

- Distribute Worship Guides and pencils.
- Lead the children to complete "What Does It Mean?"
- Call for volunteers to reveal answers.
- Say: "We can worship God by praying anytime, anywhere, and about anything. God doesn't want us to pray only when we face difficult times. He wants us to pray to Him all the time. God loves us very much and wants us to talk with Him because we love Him."

11 → Make Life Application (3 minutes)

- Say: "Jesus not only taught people how to pray, He also modeled prayer for them. Jesus prayed before meals, He prayed for sick people, and

He even prayed for Himself. We can pray like Jesus."

- Call attention to the prayer definition poster (step 6).
- Continue: "Prayer is not only talking to God, it is also listening to God. In our prayer times, we need to be quiet and allow God to speak to us. God also speaks to us through the Bible and other people. Listening to God is not always easy, but we can continue to ask Him to help us learn to be better listeners."

12 Sing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (DVD, 3 minutes)

- Say: "We do not always have to speak words; we can also pray through music. Let's think about God's faithfulness as we sing."

13 → Show "Jack Spade" Video #1 (DVD, 7 minutes)

- Ask: "Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? Did you begin to worry about your safety?"
- Continue: "Let's see what happens when Ben enters a corn maze and soon discovers he is not only lost, but also Agent X is chasing him."
- Show video.
- Explain: "Ben wanted Jack to come help him. When Jack did not come, Ben began to pray. Why do you think Ben called out to Jack instead of God first? What do you do when you face difficult situations? Do you call out to another person or to God first? Why?"

14 → Discuss the Key Bible Verse/Write Prayers (3 minutes)

- Guide children to open their Bibles to 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
- Select a child to read aloud the verse.
- Ask: "When does this verse say to pray? What does it mean to 'pray constantly'?"
- Continue: "Does this mean we have to walk around with our heads bowed and eyes closed at all times?"
- Discuss various ways people can pray.
- Lead the children to complete "My Own Prayer."
- Guide the children to silently read their prayers.

15 → Transition to Application Activities or Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up

(Large Group Only Format)

16 Sing "There Is None Like You"
(DVD, 3 minutes)

17 Play "Pass the Ball" Review (5 minutes)

Pull It Together

Inflated beach ball, CD player, upbeat CD

- Print "Questions" (CD).

- Explain: "While the music plays, we will toss the beach ball to each other. When the music stops, the person holding the ball will decide to either answer a question, or toss the ball to someone. The next person to catch the ball will then have to answer a question."
- Play the music and toss the ball.
- Pause the music and ask questions.
- Continue as time permits.

18 Pray "The Model Prayer" (3 minutes)

Pull It Together

"The Model Prayer" poster from step 8.

- Lead the children to pray aloud "The Model Prayer."
- 19** Dismiss the Children
- Play "All Things Are Possible" (DVD).

Wrap-Up

(Application Activities Format)

16 → Sing "There Is None Like You"
(DVD, 3 minutes)

17 → Review Application Activities
(5 minutes)

- Invite the children to share their Application Activity experiences.
 - ➔ Arts and Crafts—"Praying Hands" Reminders
 - ➔ Dramatic Play—Study the Psalms/Dramatic Reading
 - ➔ Games—"Listen Up! Link Up!"
 - ➔ Exploration and Discovery—Explore Forms of Communication

18 → Pray "The Model Prayer" (3 minutes)

Pull It Together

"The Model Prayer" poster from step 8.

- Lead the children to pray aloud "The Model Prayer."
- 19** → Dismiss the Children
- Play "All Things Are Possible" (DVD).

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