

JESUS TEACHES HOW TO PRAY

LUKE 11:1-8

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” 2 Jesus said, “This is how you should pray: “Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon.

3 Give us each day the food we need, 4 and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation.” 5 Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 6 ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit; and I have nothing for him to eat.’ 7 And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.’ 8 But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

READ

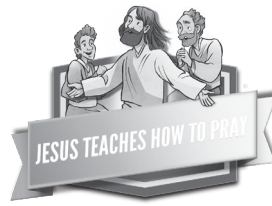
CHARACTERS

Jesus: Prays to His Father in heaven, a sight not uncommon to His disciples. On this occasion, they ask Jesus about prayer, and He walks them through a model of how to pray to the Father. He also tells them a simple story in order to illustrate the importance of persistent prayer.

Disciples of Jesus: The ones who have witnessed Jesus praying many times since the day they began following Him. After one such day, one of the disciples asks, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” Jesus teaches them how to pray and provides them with illustrations.

MEMORY
VERSE

Philippians 4:6-7: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”



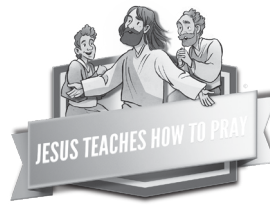
OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Luke 11:1-8:** This story begins with Jesus praying. The disciples had witnessed Him praying for others and had often seen Him steal away to pray alone. On this particular occasion, one of the disciples approached Jesus and asked Him to teach them how to pray. Jesus provided a pattern to use in prayer, often referred to as The Lord's Prayer. In it, He addressed the types of things to include when communicating to God. He taught His disciples to worship Him as the one true God and as their Father; He also taught them to surrender to His Kingdom and His will, trust Him for daily provision, ask for forgiveness, and to use prayer in battle against temptation.

SUGGESTIONS

▶ **Review the elements of the model prayer given by Jesus:**

- 1. Our Father in heaven:** A broken relationship with God is restored by putting our trust in Jesus as our Savior. A restored relationship means we become God's child and we get to call Him Father.
- 2. Holy is Your name:** He is the one true God and creator of the entire universe, there is no one else like Him. He deserves our adoration.
- 3. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven:** In the Kingdom of Heaven, every creature delights in and follows God's law. We should pray that the same thing happens here on earth: that every man, woman, and child calls God their King, and enjoy the blessings of being called His children.
- 4. Give us this day our daily bread:** We do not worry about what we will eat or drink, your heavenly Father knows what we need before we even ask.
- 5. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us:** If we confess our sins to God, He will forgive. His forgiveness gives us the power to forgive others.
- 6. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:** On our own, we are powerless to fight the temptation to sin or stand strong under trials. We should call on Him because He is our deliverer and strength.



**POST-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

- ▶ **Ball/Chin Relay | Supplies:** Small tennis balls.
- Divide kids into teams. Place balls on the floor for each team. Have one student from each team run across the room and, without using hands, pick up one ball with his or her chin, and return it to their teams and drop it into a bucket. The first team to retrieve all the balls wins.
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**MEMORY
VERSE
MEANING**

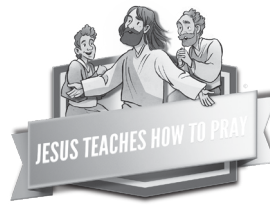
- ▶ **Philippians 4:6-7:** When we are worried about anything, we should go to God. We should pray for God to help us through all troubling situations. We can trust God to take care of our problems because He is faithful, He is all-powerful, He loves us, and He wants the best for us.
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**PRE-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

- ▶ **Telephone**
- Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Tell them that you are going to whisper something in the first child's ear, and then he or she is going to whisper the same message to the next child. This continues until the message reaches the first child. The last child in the circle says the message out loud. Tell the class what the original message was. Tell the class that, unlike the game, we can speak directly to God when we pray. He always hears us correctly and right away.
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**TAKE
HOME**

- ▶ **In application, review the elements of the model prayer given by Jesus:**
- 1. Our Father in heaven:** God is our Father.
 - 2. Holy is Your name:** God is worthy of our worship.
 - 3. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven:** God is the King.
 - 4. Give us this day our daily bread:** God is our provider.
 - 5. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us:** God forgives.
 - 6. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:** God protects.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: What did one of Jesus' disciples ask Him to teach them?

A1: He asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.

Q1b: Did anyone teach you any prayers to say before dinner or at bedtime?

TN: This can include children's prayers, such as "Now I lay me down to sleep, ..." "God is good, God is great, thank you for our food, Amen." Have they learned anything else from listening to others pray, such as asking in Jesus' name?

SLIDE 2

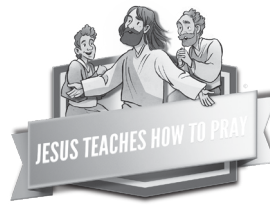


Q2a: How did Jesus tell His disciples to start their prayers?

A2: Our Father in heaven

Q2b: How do you usually address God when you start your prayers?

TN: The Lord's Prayer is sort of a template we can use to get our conversations with God started. Jesus tells us to call God our Father to illustrate the close relationship we should have with God. Whether we begin exactly as Jesus suggests, or we simply say, "Hi, Jesus!", the point is that we are conversing with our Creator, the one true God, and we're working toward building that close relationship with Him.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What kingdom did Jesus tell the disciples to pray to come to Earth?

A3: The Kingdom of Heaven

Q3b: Have you ever read a book or seen a movie and wished that the people and places were real?

TN: When Jesus told His disciples to pray that the Kingdom of Heaven comes to Earth, He was saying that they should pray that people on Earth love and follow God's law the way every creature in Heaven does.

SLIDE 4

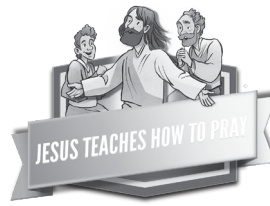


Q4a: What did Jesus tell his disciples to rely on God to provide?

A4: Food, shelter, and clothes

Q4b: Have you ever wondered why people have to work and earn money if God provides everything for us?

TN: God's provision for us may not seem as direct and obvious as it was in some of the Old Testament stories like in the Garden of Eden and when God provided the Israelites with manna while in the wilderness, but He does still provide. Everything we have comes from God. Here's a simplified breakdown of how this works: You have shelter, and food, and clothes. How do you have those things? Because someone has a job that earns money. How do people get their jobs? People get jobs based on their talent and skills. How do people get talents and skills? God gives us talents and skills. Therefore, you have food, shelter, and clothes through God's provision.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What did Jesus tell the disciples they must do?

A5: He said they must forgive others.

Q5b: Has anyone ever done anything mean to you?

TN: Most students will have an experience to share, but they don't have to discuss them if they don't want; the purpose of this question is to ask them if they have forgiven the person.

SLIDE 6

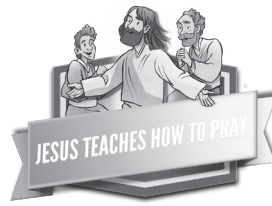


Q6a: How does prayer damage the work of the enemy?

A6: It provides the disciples strength to resist temptation.

Q6b: Have you ever been tempted to do something that you knew was wrong?

TN: Students don't have to provide specifics; the intent of this question is to get them talking about wanting to do something and wanting to not do it at the same time? That's a strange situation to find yourself in! Did they pray? Did they decide to do the right thing? If not, encourage them to pray next time they find themselves in similar situations.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: How did Jesus teach the disciples to be persistent in their prayers?

A7: He told them a story.

Q7b: If God hears our prayers right away, why do we need to keep praying?

TN: Prayer is about building a relationship with God. God knows our needs before we do. Praying helps us to build trust in the Lord. Constant prayer reminds us to first think about God before we make decisions.

SLIDE 8

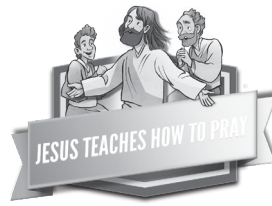


Q8a: In Jesus' story, what was the person asking his neighbor to give him?

A8: Something to feed a guest.

Q8b: Does Jesus' story mean that God answers our prayers so we'll stop bothering Him?

TN: Quite the opposite, actually! God answers our prayers because He loves us and wants us to depend on Him. Jeremiah 29: 11-13 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 9

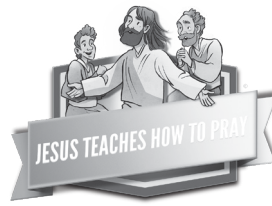


Q9a: What encouraged the disciples?

A9: That they could talk to God, and that He would provide for their needs, forgive their sins, and protect them from their enemies.

Q9b: How does prayer make you feel?

TN: This question will get students talking about their feelings about God. The disciples were encouraged. Maybe students gain confidence from prayer, or happiness, or peace. Let them talk about it.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

▶ **Philippians 4:6-7:** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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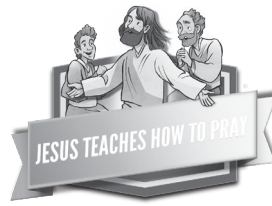
BIG IDEA

▶ Our Father in Heaven hears and answers our prayers.

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**CLOSING
PRAYER**

▶ Our Father in Heaven, we worship you because you are so powerful and strong and there is no one else like You. We thank You for providing everything we need and we ask that You continue to take care of us and provide for us because we are Your precious children. Please forgive us for our sins and help us to forgive others. We pray this all in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



The disciples often saw Jesus praying. He talked with His Father in heaven every day. Sometimes He would pray along with other people, while other times He would quietly leave the crowds or His small group of disciples to spend time alone with God. One day after He was finished praying, one of His disciples asked Him, “Master, please teach us to pray. We have heard your servant John the Baptist teaching about prayer. Can you also teach us how to talk to God?”

SLIDE 2

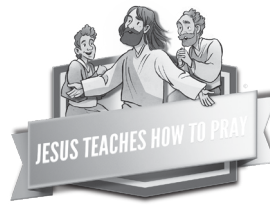


Of course Jesus agreed because this was an important topic for all of His disciples to learn. So He began to teach, “When you pray, begin with ‘Our Father in heaven, holy is your name.’” Jesus taught His disciples that God is holy and there is none like Him; but even though God is so powerful and great, they could still call Him Father in the same way a young child talks to their own loving parent.

SLIDE 3



He continued, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, here on earth as it is in Heaven.” Jesus called for his disciples to pray that the invisible kingdom of heaven would completely take over the kingdoms of the world. It was His will that every person on the earth would hear the good news of salvation so that they would have the opportunity to prepare for the coming King.



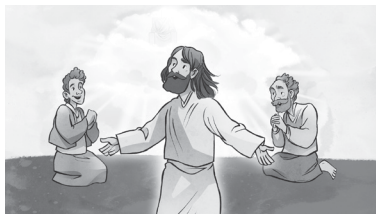
LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 4



Then Jesus addressed their physical needs and their daily concerns with, “Give us this day our daily bread”. He encouraged the disciples to rely on God for food to eat, a place to live, and for clothes to wear. He urged them not to worry, but to trust their heavenly Father to provide everything they needed, day by day.

SLIDE 5



Next came these words: “Forgive us our sins as we forgive everyone who has wronged us”. He was reminding them that in order to be forgiven by God, they must first forgive everyone who has hurt them. There is no sin that God cannot forgive; likewise, there should be no wrongdoing that we cannot forgive in others.

SLIDE 6

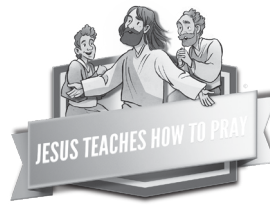


Jesus continued, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” Most certainly the enemy of the world, Satan himself, was not happy about this conversation Jesus was having with His disciples. Prayer is a powerful weapon, and very damaging to the works of the enemy. Through prayer, the disciples would receive strength to resist temptation, and to avoid falling for the enemy’s tricks. Prayer would be their rescue.

SLIDE 7



Then Jesus taught them to be persistent in prayer. He gave them this example. He said, “Let’s say you go to your neighbor in the middle of the night with the urgent need. A friend of yours arrived unexpectedly and you have nothing to feed this hungry guest after a very long journey.”



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 8



Jesus went on, "But your neighbor does not want to be bothered because it is the middle of the night and everyone is sound asleep, so, he tells you to go away. 'Come back in the morning when it is day and the household is awake!' he yells down from the window. But you continue to pound on the door, confident that if you persist, he will finally give you what you desperately need. Don't you think after all of this, your friend will finally give you the loaves?" Jesus urged the disciples to pray with the same determination and persistence. He taught them to never give up.

SLIDE 9



How encouraged the disciples were to learn that they could talk to an all powerful God as their Father, and that He would provide for their needs, forgive their sins, and protect them from their enemies! The kingdom belongs to God, and His power and glory is forever.