
Forward

This book contains lessons that dig into the concepts of what prayer is and how we should pray. The lessons explore each phrase of the Lord's Prayer helping children to not only learn the words to this prayer, but what those words mean and how they apply to their lives. Through these lessons children will discover that prayer is more than recitation or a wish list. It's part of a vital relationship with God.

I have designed these lessons to enable you to teach the Bible expositively. The idea is to have the kids read the passages in their own Bibles and the teacher explain the scriptures and give good practical applications that are age-appropriate. My goal is to ensure that children learn that God's Word is exciting and meaningful and that teachers teach sound doctrine!

Even though I've scripted the lessons, I don't expect teachers to read my lesson materials verbatim to the children as they teach. My lessons are meant to provide the details you need to get background information and some suggestions for child-oriented personal application. Once you know and understand the Bible lessons for yourself, you'll be ready to teach your class.

The two-column layout of this book is designed so that you can copy and cut the pages in half to fit into your Bible. When the children observe that you are teaching right out of the Bible, rather than from a

curriculum book, it validates God's Word and gives your teaching more authority.

You will discover that there is not always a Craft or Game idea suggested in each lesson. When I've had a good idea that really seems to support the lesson objectives, I've included it. But I have another handbook called *Tips and Tricks — Making Children's Bible Lessons Come to Life* that gives lots of suggestions for activities that will help reinforce your lesson and teach the memory verse. (This is available from my website:

<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com/>)

Use the Teaching Schedule to help you organize your teaching rotation.

I pray that you will use these lessons for God's glory by teaching the Bible as an entire plan by a systematic and connected study of the Word.

Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. (Mark 10:14)

Sheila Scroggins

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Teaching Schedule

Date	Teacher	Lesson	Memory Verse
		What is Prayer	Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (Philippians 4:6)
		Our Father in Heaven	Our Father in heaven. (Matthew 6:9a)
		May Your Name Be Kept Holy	May your name be kept holy. (Matthew 6:9)
		May Your Kingdom Come Soon	May your Kingdom come soon. (Matthew 6:10a)
		May Your Will Be Done on Earth	May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10b)
		Give Us Today the Food We Need	Give us today the food we need. (Matthew 6:11)
		Forgive Us Our Sins	Forgive us our sins. (Matthew 6:12a)
		Help Us to Forgive Others	Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. (Matthew 6:12)
		Don't Let us Yield to Temptation	Don't let us yield to temptation. (Matthew 6:13a)
		Rescue Us from the Evil One	Rescue us from the evil one. (Matthew 6:13b)
		For Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory Forever	For Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory Forever (Matthew 6:13c)
		Did He Hear Me?	The Lord will hear when I call to him. (Psalm 4:3b)

What Is Prayer?

(Matthew 6:5-7; 7:7-11)

Introduction

What is prayer? Is it a magic wand we wave in front of God to get Him to do things our way? Prayer is talking to God. God loves you and wants to talk to you and He wants you to talk to Him. What sorts of things can you talk to God about? [Let kids respond.]

- You can tell Him how great He is.
- We can ask Him to forgive us when we do wrong.
- We can thank Him for all that He does for us and for others.
- We can talk to Him about the things that make us sad and the things that make us glad.
- We can ask Him to meet our needs and the needs of family members, friends, neighbors, and so on.

Prayer allows us to open our hearts to God and let him know our innermost thoughts and desires. The Lord Jesus prayed much Himself and He often talked about prayer. When His disciples wanted to know how to pray, He taught them what to do and what not to do.

Today we start a new series of lessons on prayer. We're going to find out what it is and how God wants us to do it. Let's start by each of us thanking God for one good thing that happened in the past.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we are excited about the lesson this morning. It's so important for us to learn how to pray. Give us attentive minds this morning so that we may be encouraged to spend lots of time talking to You about whatever is on our hearts. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (Philippians 4:6)

Lesson

God wants us to talk to Him! Prayer is more than just saying thanks to God before we eat. And, it's much more than asking Him for stuff, like a new bike. It's a special way of telling God everything that's going on in our lives.

Our verse today is telling us that God doesn't want us to worry about things. He wants us to tell him what's going on in our lives so He can take care of it.

So, how should we pray? The first thing we're going to learn is that God doesn't listen to the prayers of people who are showoffs. It's the simple and honest prayers that mean the most to God.

God Doesn't Honor Showy Prayers

Matthew 6:5

When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.

Jesus is telling us that we shouldn't pray like a hypocrite. What's a *hypocrite*? (A pretender, a deceiver, or a phony) A hypocrite is someone who pretends to be something he is not. Jesus was talking about people who pretend to be good when they are around others. The hypocrites love it when people see them praying. Have you ever met anyone who prays in such a way to be sure they are seen? They aren't praying from their hearts. *People* hear such prayers, but God doesn't.

It isn't that God doesn't want us to pray publicly. Prayer is a very important part of church and Sunday school. But when we pray with others, we must make sure we are talking sincerely to God, not trying to impress those listening.

The next thing we learn about prayer is that God wants us to do it privately.

Spend Time Talking to God Alone.

Matthew 6:6

But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Praying with others is good, but it is not enough. Your prayer life should include private times just between you and God. When you pray, Jesus said, pray in your room or in another place where you can be alone. God the Father will hear as you pray from your heart, and He *will* answer.

Next, we learn that God wants us to keep our prayers short and to the point.

Make Your Prayers Simple and Sincere

Matthew 6:7-8

When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of others religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

The Lord Jesus told them not to pray by just repeating the same words over and over. Some people think God will hear them if they pray with many words. But repeating yourself again and again is not praying from your heart. And it's not necessary. Jesus said, "*The Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*"

Lastly, we learn that we can have confidence that God will answer our prayers.

Ask, Seek, Knock

Matthew 7:7-8

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. (8) For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

What Jesus is telling us here is to be persistent in our prayers. Don't give up if God doesn't answer your prayers right away. Keep on asking, keep on seeking God, keep on knocking at the door. Trusting in God takes faith. Sometimes He doesn't answer your prayers right away; sometimes He makes us wait. But Jesus assures us that we will be rewarded. Don't give up in trying to seek God. Continue to ask Him for wisdom, love, and understanding. He will give them to you.

Matthew 7:9-10

You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? (10) Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not!

If you were hungry and asked your parents for something to eat, your parents wouldn't give you a rock or a snake! They would gladly give you something that is good for you. It's the same with God. If you ask for something that is good for you, He will gladly give it to you. He loves you and wants what is best for you.

Matthew 7:11

So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him!

Jesus is showing us the heart of God the Father here. God is not selfish, or mean, or stingy. We don't have to beg or plead as we come with our requests. He is a loving Father who understands, cares, and comforts. If we humans can be kind, imagine how kind God, the creator of kindness, is!

1 John 5:14-15:

And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. (15) And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

We don't need to use big words. What's important is that we come to God with the right attitude.

We should not be praying to bring attention to ourselves or to ramble on and on. Instead, we should be honest with God about what's going on in our lives and share that with Him.

[Teacher, spend the last few minutes of class in prayer with your students.] What is something each of you would like to pray for right now?

- Do you want to tell Him how great He is?
- Do you want to thank Him for something?
- Do you want to ask Him for something?

Let's all pray together....

Closing Prayer

Lord, it is an awesome privilege to be able to talk to You, the creator of the universe. It's amazing that You have the time and interest in hearing from us. Forgive us for the times we forget to come to You in prayer. Give us a desire in our hearts to come running to You at every opportunity. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

My Prayer Place

One thing Jesus said was that it's a good idea to have a private place to pray. This lets us focus on God and not be distracted by others around us. Let's think about where we could find a prayer place and draw a picture of it.

Game Center

Way to Pray!

The Bible helps us know how to pray, let's look at a few more verses that give us directions about prayer. Look up the following verses and decide what it tells us about prayer, or what directions it gives us:

- 1 Timothy 2:8
- Acts 27:35
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- James 5:16
- Colossians 4:2
- Philippians 4:6
- Isaiah 30:19b
- Luke 11:9

Or, use the following questions in another game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What is prayer? (Talking to God)
2. Name a few things that you can talk to God about? (You can tell Him how great He is. We can ask for forgiveness, we can thank Him, we can tell Him about the things that make us sad or glad. We can ask Him to meet our needs.)

3. What is a *hypocrite*? (A pretender, a deceiver, or a phony)
4. What did Jesus mean when He said not to pray like a hypocrite? (Jesus said we should not pretend to be good and faithful around others. We must make sure we are talking sincerely to God, not trying to impress those listening.)
5. Who hears the prayers of hypocrites? (Only people, not God)
6. Where is the best place to pray? (In the privacy of your own room or in another place where you can be alone. That's where you can really pray from your heart.)
7. Is it necessary to pray the same words over and over again to be sure that God hears you? (No! The Father knows your need before you even ask Him!)
8. What did Jesus mean when He said to ask and seek and knock? (He said to be persistent in our prayers. Not to give up too easily.)
9. Does God give us whatever we ask for? What if we ask for something that's not good for us? (God is a loving Father who understands our needs better than we do. He wants to give us the very best. Sometimes we're asking for something that isn't good for us; or sometimes God is telling us to wait for the thing we're asking for. We need to trust that the Father knows best.)

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Our Father in Heaven

(Matthew 6:9a)

Introduction

[Teacher, display a variety of baking ingredients and a recipe for bread. Include ingredients that would not go into a bread recipe. Discuss what would happen if we didn't use a recipe as beginning bakers. Then have the students decide which of the ingredients belong in the recipe. Explain that Jesus gave us an example of a prayer to use as our guide when we pray. If time permits, students could make the bread. Otherwise, the leader could make the bread at home and bring it back when the "daily bread" portion of the prayer is discussed.]

How many of you do any cooking? Do you use a recipe?

[Teacher, allow the children to make some quick setting pudding by following the recipe on the box. Dish it into individual Dixie cups and allow it to set until snack time at the end of class.]

Recipes teach us a good way to create a particular dish. But usually a recipe is just a starting point. Once you understand the basic recipe, you can get creative and add your own ideas. For example, we could have added some chocolate chips or Oreo Cookie chunks to our pudding just to make it taste better.

The Lord Jesus gave us a recipe for prayer, which we will begin to learn about today. And once you understand the basics of prayer, we will learn that God loves it when we get creative.

Opening Prayer

Before we open in prayer, I want you to think of a person who loves you very much. What has that person done that lets you know he or she loves you?

God loves you even more than the person you just shared about. Let's thank God for putting that person into our lives... [Teacher, allow each child to express their thanks.]

Our Father, we're so thankful that You love us and hear us when we pray to You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Our Father in heaven. (Matthew 6:9)

Lesson

Do you guys talk to God? Does He hear you? Does He answer?

What sorts of answers to prayer have you had? (Helps us find things, controls the weather, helps us remember things, etc.)

Last week we learned some things about prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. Let's review; open your Bibles to Matthew 6:5...

- God doesn't want us to be hypocrites when we pray. What's a *hypocrite*? (A pretender, a deceiver, or a phony) God doesn't want us to pray just to show off to others; He wants us to pray sincerely from our hearts directly to Him.
- God wants us to pray privately where it's just the two of us. He said to pray in your secret place where you can't be distracted.
- God wants us to have simple, honest prayers. It's not necessary to repeat the same words over and over. He knows our need before we even ask Him, anyway.
- God wants us to be persistent in our prayers. He said to keep on asking, keep on seeking, and to keep on knocking at the door.

Don't ever give up on God, even when He doesn't answer right away. Trust that if you're praying according to His will, He hears and will answer.

God wants to give us the very best. He is a loving Father who understands, cares, and comforts. He's not stingy; we don't have to beg.

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying and when he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “*Lord, teach us to pray.*”

So, Jesus told them “*This is how you should pray...*”

Matthew 6:9

Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

[Teacher, give each child a copy of the Lord’s Prayer card.]

Jesus gave his disciples this sample prayer to help them learn how to pray on their own. It’s like a recipe for prayer.

It’s important first of all to realize that when we pray, we aren’t just praying to some unknown power or being, we’re talking to a real live person and He wants us to refer to Him as our father. So, in this prayer, Jesus began by addressing God, as “*Our Father*”.

Only someone who is God’s child has the right to call Him “Father.”

Are you God’s child? Not every person is.

John 1:12

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Only those who believe that Jesus is God and that when He died on the cross, He satisfied the Father’s requirement that all sin be punished are sons and daughters in God’s family. God wants to be your loving Heavenly Father. Do you believe that when Jesus’ was brutally nailed to the cross He took the punishment for your sins that you deserved? If you really believe that, when you pray you can start by calling for your heavenly “*Father*.”

Your Honor?

[This activity helps kids consider the honor it is to call God “Father.”]

Preparation: Boldly print the following titles of people in authority on flash cards: King, President, Principal, Police Officer, Judge, Coach, and God. (Talk about God last.)

Discuss the following:

Say you were a roving, reporter...

- What’s something you might talk to this person about?
- If you needed to talk to this person in real life, would you feel nervous? Why or why not?
- Would this person care enough about you to listen to you and answer you? Why or why not?
- How would you address this person? (Your Honor, Mister or Madam President, Sir, Ma’am, and so on.)
- If this person was your close friend or your parent, would you address them differently?

Some people in authority don’t have time to listen to us. Even if we give them a lot of respect and address them with respectful names, they don’t always listen or answer our concerns. But God does! Even though God is the most powerful person of all, we can call him our Father. And like most dads, God our Father listens to us. In fact God listens better than any other father in the whole world! God is our heavenly Father who hears our prayers.

Isaiah 65:24

I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still taking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!

- What does this verse tell us about God?
- How do you feel knowing God hears us before we even finish talking?

- Is there anyone else who knows exactly what you're going to ask before you even ask it?

It's an honor to be able to call God our Father and to know that He hears us when we pray!

There are many people who don't have fathers here on earth to take care of them. Maybe their fathers have died, maybe their parents have divorced and their father has gone away. For whatever reason, not everyone has a father.

Psalm 68:3-5

But let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God's presence. Let them be filled with joy. (4) Sing praises to God and to his name! Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds. His name is the Lord—rejoice in his presence! (5) Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy.

This verse says that God is a father to those who don't have one.

- Have you ever thought of trusting God to take care of you like a father would?
- How is God the same and yet different from the fathers we know here on earth?

Job Description for The Perfect Father

When people want to hire someone for a job, they usually write a "Job Description" so that they can advertise the position and people will know what they're applying for. We're going to write a Job Description for the Perfect Father.

What would the perfect dad be like? Give me some descriptions of the job of being the father in a home. [Write them on the board.]

- Do you think anyone could actually be like the father we have described? Why or why not?

- Which of the things you listed describe God?

God is the perfect Father. He not only cares about us, but he has the power to take care of us.

Matthew 6:25-26

That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? (26) Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?

- What kinds of things do you worry about?
- Can your dad take care of these things? Why or why not?
- Do you think God can take care of them? Why or why not?
- Does knowing God is your heavenly Father make it easier to pray to him?

God Cares

- What are your plans for the future?
- Do you know what you want to be when you grow up?
- Do you think God cares what we choose to do?

God, our heavenly Father, has plans for us.

Jeremiah 29:11-12

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. (12) In those days when you pray, I will listen."

- How can we know His plans?

If we read His word and pray to Him and try to listen and obey, He will reveal His special plans for your life. He's a good God and has good plans for your life.

Closing Prayer

[Teacher, have children look at the Job Description for the Perfect Father and ask them to choose words or phrases that describe God. Then thank Him for those qualities.]

Our Father in heaven, thank You for listening to us when we pray. Thank you for taking care of us and answering our prayers. You are the perfect Father. We love You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Happy Father's Day!

Whether or not we have fathers here on earth, God is our heavenly Father who hears our prayers. Let's make a Father's Day card for God and use them as a way to write our prayers to God.

Game Center

Use the questions contained in this lesson in a game of your choice.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation.

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory
for ever.

Amen.

(Matthew 6:9-13)

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

May Your Name Be Kept Holy

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

How many of you have heard someone use the name of our Lord in a negative way? How would you feel if your name were used this way? It's disrespectful; you'd be offended, wouldn't you!

The Bible tells us that the name of the Lord is holy, set apart, worthy of the highest praise. When we speak God's name, we should do so with honor.

Today we're going to learn how special God's name is and how we can worship God through prayer.

Opening Prayer

If the Queen of England was coming through here, and we wanted to show her respect and honor, we would bow as she passed by. Let's bow now before God to show Him honor today. [Teacher, you might kneel with the children, to pray.]

Father, we praise and worship Your name because You are holy. We love You and want to honor You today. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. (Matthew 6:9)

Lesson

[Teacher, before class look up the meanings of your student's names. Print them on slips of paper. (Bring a baby naming book to class in case you have a visitor.) Give each child a copy of the work sheet at the end of this lesson. Let them write their name. Then, read the meanings of each child's name aloud. See if children can guess which meaning goes with which name. Then pass out the slips of paper with

their name's meaning on it and instruct them to write that on their worksheet.]

- Does the meaning of your name describe who you are?
- Do you know why your parents chose your name?
- What name might describe you better?

Some parents choose names because they like the sound of the name, or because they want to name their child after someone special, like a relative or person from the Bible. Some parents choose names because it starts with a certain letter of the alphabet.

These days, people's names are little more than labels that help us tell one person from another. Sometimes nicknames are chosen which tell something about a person, but even these are a poor reflection of who the person really is.

In Bible times the meanings of names were very important. Names carried special significance. Parents chose a name for their child because of what it meant. A person's name identified them and stood for something specific.

Did you know that there are hundreds of names for God in the Bible? Let's see how many we can remember. [Teacher, start a list on the board and instruct them to write them on the work sheet. Then, have four children look up the following verses:]

Proverbs 18:10

*The name of the Lord is a **strong fortress**; the godly run to him and are safe.*

John 6:35

*Jesus replied, "I am **the bread of life**. Who ever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

John 8:12

*Then Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the **light of the world**. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."*

Isaiah 9:6

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

There are many other names for God. For example:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Christ | • Messiah | • Savior |
| • Emmanuel (God With Us) | • God Almighty | • God Who Sees Me |
| • Everlasting Father | • Prince of Peace | • Redeemer |
| • King of Kings | • Lord of Lords | • Bridegroom |
| • Lamb of God | • Rock | • The Way, the Truth and the Life |
| • The Lord is My Shepherd | • Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end) | • Creator |

Why do you think God has different names?

To many the names *God* or *Lord* say little about God's character, His ways, His power and His authority. That's why the Bible God reveals His names to His people rather than allowing them to choose names for Him. He wanted people to know what He is really like.

Keep His Name Holy

We have been learning about the Lord's Prayer. Last week we learned that we start the prayer by calling upon "*Our Father in heaven.*"

Next, we learn that it's important to keep His name holy.

Matthew 6:9

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

- What do you think "*holy*" means? (Holy means "*set apart.*")
- Can you give any examples of something that is holy? What is something that is very special that you should treat with respect? (Mom's special china?)
- What does it mean to say that God's name is holy?

That means that His name is to be kept special. When you pray, quiet yourself and think about how great God is. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "*Father, we admire You, we adore You, You are wonderful, excellent and marvelous. You deserve our praise... We honor Your holy name.*"

It's important for you to remember Who you're talking to. Think about it. You're talking to the creator of the whole universe! He's all-knowing, all-wise, and all-powerful; He has more power than any other being. He can answer your prayers! Having this in your mind when you begin praying, gives you confidence.

God is perfect and pure. We should be amazed at how holy he is! It's only right that we give him honor and respect.

The Bible tells us about a man named David. Before David killed Goliath and became famous, he was a shepherd boy. It was his job to take the sheep out on the range to eat and fatten up. Sometimes he was out there all alone for long periods of time. It must have been lonely out there for him; there was no radio or TV to keep him company.

And, it was dangerous work, too, because often wild animals would come and attack the sheep. He'd have to be brave and fight off lions and coyote.

He must have spent his quiet hours looking around at the beautiful world that God has made – the trees, and the sun, and the moon and the stars. To fill up the lonely hours in the night, he would play a harp and sing songs. Most of his songs were prayers to God. In some of his songs he asks God for help. Some songs tell others about how great God is. Other songs are prayers of worship, telling God how wonderful and holy He is. Many of David's songs are written down in our Bibles in the book of Psalms.

Psalm 100 [Teacher, read...]

Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! (2) Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. (3) Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. (4) Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. (5) For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

- How did David worship God? (He shouted with joy; worshipped with gladness, came singing with joy...)
- Which of these things do you do as you pray to God?
- What words or phrases in this psalm remind us that God is holy or that he should be honored? (Lord is God! He made us, He's good, His love is unfailing; He is faithful.)
- What can we learn from David's example?

Make a Joyful Noise

Psalm 149:1

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing his praises in the assembly of the faithful.

Let's practice worshipping God with prayer songs. A prayer of worship, like Psalm 100, should tell God how great he is, just as a cheer for your favorite sports team would. A prayer of worship is not a

prayer where we list all the things we need. It's a way of telling God we think He's the best! Look at Psalm 148 to get some ideas. Think of what words and actions you could do to show God how much you love Him.

[Teacher, divide the children into small groups. Encourage older children to partner with younger ones. Have each group write a prayer of worship and then share it with the other groups.

Encourage kids to be creative. Suggest that they consider setting their prayer to music (they might use a popular tune and write new words to it), creating a rap or cheer, or writing a prayer they would all whisper together. They could also add dance steps and/or hand motions to it. Remind the children that they can use some of the names of God in their prayers too.

Remind them that even though they're letting the others hear their prayer, they are really speaking to God. After each group has shared its prayer of worship, gather kids together.]

- Did these prayer songs help you worship God?
- How do you think God feels when He hears these prayers?
- How do you feel expressing these thoughts to God?
- Could you offer as much praise and worship to God if He wasn't holy? Why or why not?

The prayers of David and the prayers you all have shared remind us that we can worship God through prayer.

Closing Prayer

[Teacher, have all the children stand in a circle holding hands or linking elbows.]

We've learned that God is holy and that we can worship God when we pray. Let's worship God now by using some of His names that we learned today.

Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. We praise You and worship You because You are holy. Your names tell us how special You are and how much we should honor You. Your name is worthy of all our praise. You're the bread of life, the light of the world, a strong fortress. You are Emmanuel, God With Us. You're The God Who Sees. You're the Almighty One. Help us to remember to always keep Your name holy. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the questions contained in the lesson in a game of your choice.

What's in a Name?

My Name: _____

The meaning of my name: _____

A few names of God:

Our Father in haven (Matthew 6:9)

Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

King of Glory (Psalm 24:7)

Shepherd of Israel (Psalm 80:1)

[For more lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

May Your Kingdom Come Soon

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

Where is God's Kingdom? How do you get into it? [Teacher, let the children respond.]

Today we're going to learn about God's Kingdom and how we can be a part of it.

Opening Prayer

Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. May Your kingdom come soon. We love you very much and we want to learn how to be part of Your kingdom. Teach us how we can join Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

May your Kingdom come soon. (Matthew 6:10a)

Lesson

We've been learning the Lord's Prayer. It starts off with:

Our Father in heaven. (Matthew 6:9a)

God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. He wants us to call Him, "Father." He is a loving Father who cares about us, understands what we're going through, and can comfort us. When Jesus gave His disciples this recipe for prayer, He told them to begin prayer by calling out to, "Our Father in Heaven."

Next it says:

May your name be kept holy. (Matthew 6:9b)

Jesus taught us that it is important for us to keep God's name holy. That means that we are to keep His name special. When you pray, it's

important to remember Who you're talking to. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "Father, we admire You and adore You. We honor Your holy name."

The next part says:

May your Kingdom come soon. (Matthew 6:10a)

Did you know that someday Jesus is coming back to Earth? When He gets here He will set up His wonderful kingdom and live among us as our King. That will be an exciting day, indeed! But, unfortunately, not everyone will be entering into His kingdom.

I'm going to introduce you to three people. Each one has an idea of how he or she can get into God's kingdom. Once you hear each story, we'll decide if that person understands what it takes to get into the kingdom of heaven.

[Teacher, make name play-cards for three children to wear around their necks and let each of them introduce themselves, as follows:

1. Hi. My name's Chrissie Christian. My family goes to church *all* the time. I haven't missed a day of church in a year. My family goes to church twice a week—Sundays *and* Wednesdays. And, I always bring my Bible. The way I see it, I go to church so much that God *has* to be impressed. He'll have to let me into His kingdom.
2. Hi. My name is Dora Do-Good. I do lots of good things. Last year I saved fifty dollars of my allowance money and gave it to a food drive for poor people. I volunteer to read to younger students at school every week. I always do extra chores around the house. Nobody does more good things than me! I think this is the kind of stuff that makes God *want* me to be part of His Kingdom. If I'm not qualified to be in His Kingdom, then who is?
3. Hi. My name is Easy Eddie. Am I in God's kingdom? Sure I am. I mean, who isn't? If God is love, then how could anyone *not* be a part of His Kingdom? God isn't going to tell people they can't be part of His Kingdom because they don't believe certain things or because they did some small thing wrong. Everyone is going to heaven whether they've heard of Jesus or not!

Ask the children how each person thinks that he or she can get into God's kingdom and if this way works. Discuss why or why not?]

Many people think that if they behave and go to church, they're automatically be a part of God's kingdom. However, that is not true. God wants us to go to church and to do good things and be kind. However, these things will not get us into God's kingdom. There's only one way to get in.

But the people of Jesus' time didn't understand that. By the time Jesus came to Earth, Israel had been under the power and control of other nations for over 600 years and they desperately wanted to rule themselves. During Jesus' day, the Roman Empire was ruling over them. It was the most powerful kingdom on Earth at that time. They treated the Israelites cruelly and charged them high taxes. The Israelites hated the Romans.

The Israelites knew that the scriptures promised to send them a Messiah, a Savior, who would come and set them free. They were looking for Him to come. But, they expected Him to be a military ruler who would gather a big army and use brute force to give them the freedom they desired. They were expecting God to use this Messiah to set up His Kingdom on Earth. Everyone was waiting for the time when God would rule like a king. They knew that God would be a perfect king and that everyone would be happy to be part of His kingdom. But what they didn't know is that Jesus wasn't planning to set up His kingdom on Earth until later.

God sent Jesus, the Messiah, to be our Savior. But when He came the first time, He didn't come to set up God's Kingdom here on Earth. He came to take the punishment for people's sins so that they might be able to enter God's Kingdom in Heaven.

Someday, at the end of the world, God *will* set up His Kingdom on Earth, but until then, His Kingdom is in Heaven.

Heaven is a wonderful place. It's perfect in every way. There is no sorrow, no tears, no death. And Jesus came to make it possible for us to go there and live eternally with Him.

Jesus also came to show us how to live a godly life while we are still here on Earth. He gave us the Beatitudes to teach us how to live in peace and harmony with others. He wants us to grow the fruit of the Spirit in our hearts so that our lives are ruled by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and so forth rather than the desires of our sinful nature.

God is the Great Ruler of all. However, right now, for His own purposes, He is allowing Satan to work on Earth because He wants to give people the opportunity to choose between right and wrong — between Himself and Satan. That's why things are not perfect right now on Earth. But God has promised that someday He will bind Satan and place him into the bottomless pit. Then things will change. At that time He will set up His wonderful kingdom on Earth and live among us as our King.

He wants us to let Him know in prayer that we are really looking forward to that day. So that's why Jesus taught us to pray, "*May Your Kingdom come soon.*"

It's like waiting for a big party like your Birthday or Christmas.

- Have you ever planned a big party?
- What does it feel like when you get ready for a party?
- How did you choose who you would invite?

We can go to God's kingdom party. God has invited everyone to be a part of His kingdom.

John 3:16

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

God sent Jesus to die on a cross to take away all the bad things we do. So, there's only one way to get into God's Kingdom:

Ephesians 2:8-9

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. (9) Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Grace is getting something that you don't deserve. You and I don't deserve to be saved; we deserve to be punished for all the naughty things we have done. But God loves us so much that He came into this world to die for us. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price so we could be invited into God's Kingdom. Anyone who believes that Jesus did this and says "yes" to God's invitation, can come to the party and be a part of His Kingdom.

When Jesus returns to Earth, He'll be setting up His kingdom. It will be a glorious day!

Revelation 21:18-21

The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. (19) The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, (20) the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. (21) The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

We should all be longing for — and praying for His return. It thrills God's heart when we let Him know in prayer that we are eagerly looking forward to that day. That's why in this recipe for prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, "May Your Kingdom come soon."

Let's praise Him for letting us be a part of His kingdom.

Closing Prayer

Father, You are wonderful. We look forward to the day when you come back to set up Your kingdom on Earth and put Satan in the bottomless pit. We ask that Your kingdom come now. Amen.

Learning Activities**Craft Corner****Party Invitations**

Have the children make "Party" invitations to invite their friends to church.

Time to Celebrate

[Teacher, make your party sizzle. Give your children party decorations such as balloons or streamers. Have your students decorate your classroom. By decorating the room, the children will experience the excitement of anticipating a party. These emotions will help the children connect to the lesson. And, what's a party without food? Make simple snacks, like spreading caramel dip on apple slices or cream cheese or frosting on graham crackers. Whoop it up!!!]

We know that Jesus *is* coming back. And when he comes, boy, are things going to change! Read Revelation 21:10-21 to get a glimpse of what it will be like once Jesus sets up His Kingdom on Earth!

- Spread colored frosting on graham crackers, and use them to build a square city wall. Hold the walls together with more frosting.
- Stick small candies to the walls as gems.
- Serve apple juice to remind us of the streets of gold.

It's going to be a great day when Jesus comes back!!!

Game Center

Use the questions contained in the lesson in a game of your choice.

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

May Your Will Be Done on Earth

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

A king gets to make up the laws of the land and people have to obey him. If you were king or queen for the day, what laws would you make? [Teacher, before class make a crown. Have children take turns putting the crown on their head and telling what laws they would make if they were king.] Why did you choose to make that law?

God is a king. What kinds of laws does God give us to obey?

Why do you think God gives us these laws? He gives us good laws so we'll be happy. When we obey God, we treat each other with love.

Opening Prayer

Father, we know You are our King. Teach us to pray for things that help Your desires and plans to happen here on earth as they are done in heaven. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10b)

Lesson

We've been learning the Lord's Prayer. Can anyone recite it? Let's review what we've learned so far:

Matthew 6:9-10a

Our Father in heaven

May Your name be kept holy.

May Your Kingdom come soon.

First, we learned that God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. He wants us to call Him, "*Father*." He is a loving Father who cares about us, understands what we're going through, and can comfort us. When Jesus gave His disciples this recipe for prayer, He told them to begin prayer by calling out to, "*Our Father in Heaven*."

Next, Jesus taught us that it is important for us to keep God's name holy. That means that we are to keep His name special. When you pray, it's important to remember Who you're talking to. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "*Father, we admire You and adore You. We honor Your holy name*."

Next, we learned that someday Jesus is coming back to Earth. When He gets here, He will set up His wonderful kingdom and live among us as our King. That will be an exciting day, indeed! That is a time we should all be longing for — and praying for. It thrills God's heart when we let Him know in prayer that we are eagerly looking forward to that day. Pray, "*May Your Kingdom come soon*."

The next part of the prayer, says...

Matthew 6:10b

May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

When God sets up His kingdom on Earth, things will be perfect. Then, at last, we will see God's will being done on Earth just like it is being done in heaven right now. But, in the meantime we should be praying that people would do things God's way here on Earth! You can pray, "*Father, while we wait for Your return, help us to do Your will here on earth just as the angels do in heaven*."

Too often we treat prayer as if we are catalog shopping. We say, "*Dear Lord, I want this, give me that...*" There is nothing wrong with asking God to provide us with our needs and even some of our wants. However, God isn't *just* our gracious provider; God is our King. Remember we prayed, "*May Your Kingdom come soon*." God is the king of Kings. And, He expects us to obey Him. So, we need to find out what our King's plans and desires are for our lives.

We're learning that we should pray, "*May Your will be done...*" How do we know what God's will is? Jesus said...

John 6:38-40

For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. (39) And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. (40) For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day.

God's desire is that all people everywhere would come to the knowledge of what Jesus did on the cross. So, our job here on Earth is to tell everyone everywhere about Jesus. That means that our prayers should be all about making sure that every person that we come in contact with gets a glimpse of Jesus. We should pray that every thought we have, every word we speak and everything that we do brings His name honor and glory.

Pray that God will help you love others. Pray that others will come to know Jesus personally as their Lord and Savior. Pray that God will help you tell your friends about Him.

Here's another verse that tells us what God's will is:

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

God wants us to be thankful in all things. Another way to say this is: "In everything give thanks." That means even when the bad stuff happens! Even when you get sick or when someone is mean to you. God loves it when we are filled with thankfulness. That's a sign that His Spirit is living in you. God wants all the fruit of His Spirit to develop in your life. That is His will. Why? Because He wants everyone to get to know Who He is. When people see that you are full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and so forth, they'll see Jesus living in your life.

God's will is that everyone comes to know Him before it's too late.

1 John 2:17

And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

Someday, Jesus will come back and set up His kingdom here on Earth, but only those who do the will of God will live forever with Him. It's our job to make sure that everyone we meet everywhere we go has an opportunity to get to know Jesus. That is His will.

Not only is it important for us to know what God's will is, we must then do it.

Remote Controlled

How many of you have played with a remote-controlled toy? How does it know what to do? It only does what the controller tells it to do. In the same way, you and I should be like God's remote toys, *only* doing what His will is.

We're going to do a little exercise to demonstrate how important it is for us to listen to God and to do what He tells us.

I'm going to have you get into pairs and try to find a plate of treats. We'll call the plate of treats "Heaven." One of you will be blindfolded. Your partner will guide you to "Heaven" but he or she can only answer "Yes" or "No" questions. So, if you're the one that's blindfolded, you have to ask your guide things like "Should I go forward?", "Should I turn around?", or "Should I go left?", and so forth. If you are the guide, you can only answer "Yes" or "No."

[Teacher, have the children pair off, and give each pair a blindfold. Once all the blindfolds are on, set out the plate of treats. Let the children switch roles. As the children are enjoying their treats, ask the following questions.]

- When you were blindfolded, was it easy or hard to follow the instructions of your guide?
- How was listening to your guide like praying to God?

- How was listening to your guide different from praying to God?

In our prayers we should ask God for direction. We should desire to know His plans and to do His will. God wants us to obey him here on Earth, the same way the angels obey Him in heaven. When we ask God to help us obey Him, He *will* answer our prayers.

One of the last things Jesus told his friends before He went back to heaven was to go out into all the world and tell everyone they met about Him. Paul and his friends knew that this was God's will. So, they set out on a great journey to tell everyone they could about what Jesus had done for us on the cross.

Acts 16:6-10 [Teacher, read...]

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. (7) Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. (8) So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. (9) That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" (10) So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

[Teacher, help the children discover that God has a plan and a purpose and, He will let us know what it is, if we desire to trust and obey Him.]

Notice that Paul had wanted to go to Asia to tell people about Jesus. But the Holy Spirit stopped him from going there. Then he wanted to go to Bithynia. But again, the Holy Spirit stopped him. Then one night, Paul had a vision. A man from Macedonia (northern Greece) begged him to come and help them. All along, Paul knew that it was God's will for him to tell people about Jesus. God directed him, like a remote toy first by stopping him from going to certain places then by showing him in a vision where to go.

The Bible tells us:

Proverbs 16:9

We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

God is in control of our lives. The Holy Spirit was guiding Paul and his friends as they tried to accomplish God's plans and desires.

Closing Prayer

Let's imagine for a minute that everyone on Earth obeyed God in the same way that the angels obey Him in heaven. What would life be like for us? [Teacher, let the children respond.] Life on earth would be more like life in heaven if we would obey God's desires and plans, wouldn't it? Let's practice praying for God's will to be done on Earth.

[Teacher, place Skittles in a bowl. Make a chart similar to the following example that uses the colors of the candy:

- **Red**—Pray for courage to tell a friend about Jesus.
- **Blue**—Pray that God will help you be kind—even to the people who aren't kind to you.
- **Green**—Pray that God will help you remember to read your Bible every day.
- **Yellow**—Pray that God will help you obey your parents.]

I'm going to pass this bowl of candy around the circle. When it's your turn, close your eyes and pick out one piece of candy. Look at the chart to see what you should pray for. Everything on the chart is something that God wants for us. Pray aloud as the chart directs you, and then pass the bowl. After you pray, you can eat the candy as a reminder of how good life "tastes" when God's plans happen.

Father, help us to want the things that You want. Help us to pray for things that matter to You. May Your desires and plans happen on earth the same way that they do in heaven. Help me to always choose to do Your will. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Map It!

Materials: Copies of the Map-It page, pens or pencils, teabags, a large bowl of warm water, and paper towels. [Note: Be sure to use pencils or ball point pens for this activity as markers or felt pens will run when the paper gets wet.]

How does a map guide us? God's desires and plans are like a map for our prayers. Write three things you know are part of God's plans on your maps. For example, you might choose "*being patient*" or "*inviting my friends to church.*" These maps will remind you to pray for things that are God's will. Then watch as God answers your prayers.

Let's make our maps look like they're old. This will remind us that praying for things that God desires and plans has *always* been a good idea.

[Teacher, show the children how to wet a teabag in warm (not hot) water and squeeze the excess water out of the bag. Demonstrate how to blot the tea bag on a map to make the map look old. Allow the children to blot their maps until they look authentically weathered. Set them aside to dry. Use the paper towels to dry hands, wipe spills, and blot excess water from the maps.]

When you pray in the coming weeks, pray for the three things that you wrote on your map.

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

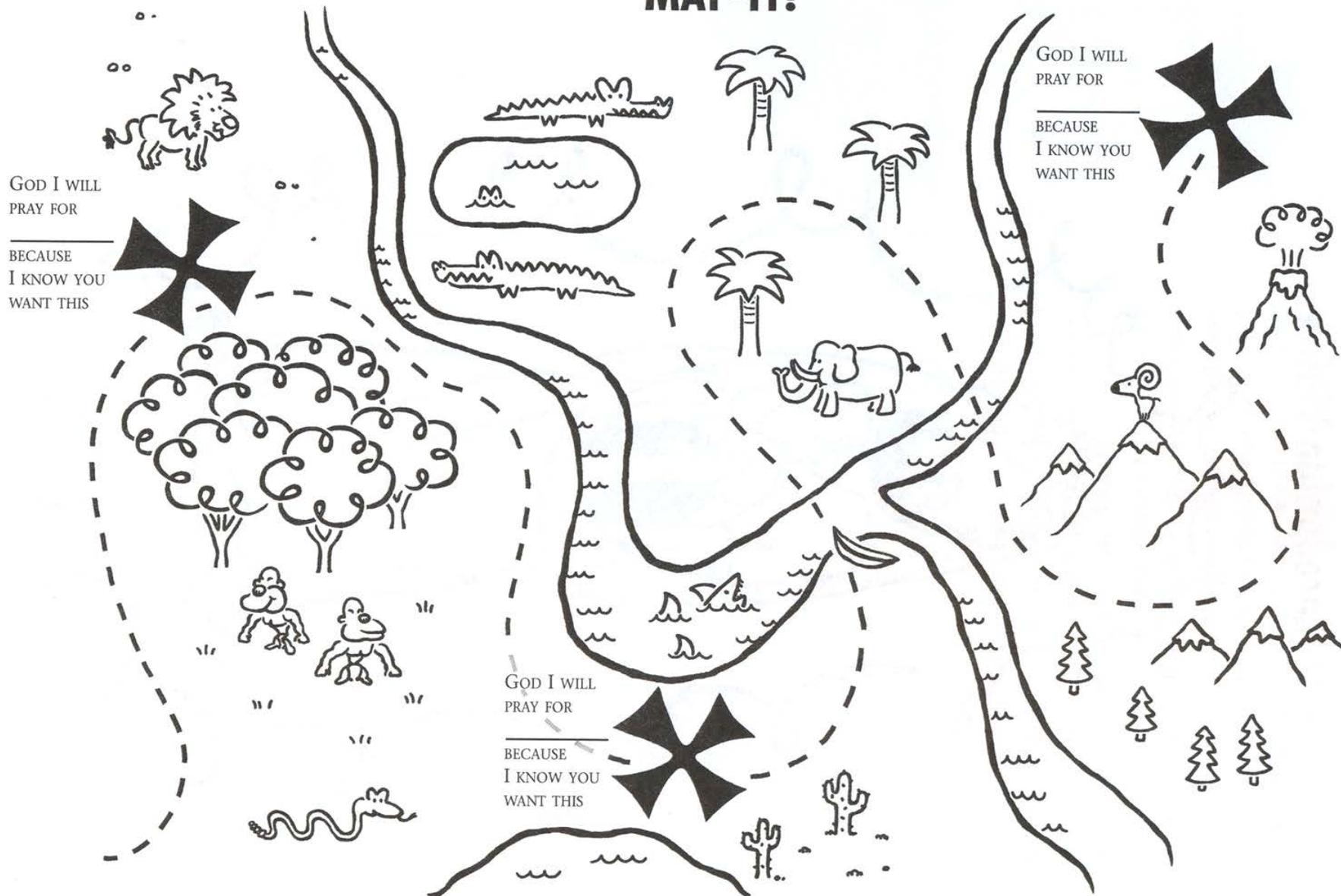
Review questions:

1. How can God guide us when we want help obeying His plans and desires?
2. What should you do when you want God's help in obeying His plans and will?
3. How do you know whether something is God's desire or not?
4. Why should God's desires and plans guide how we pray?
5. Does knowing that God answers us when we pray for things that he wants, change the way you pray?

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

May Your will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven. (Matthew 6:10b)

MAP-IT!



Give Us Today the Food We Need

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

[Teacher, discuss *Needs* verses *Wants*. Bring magazine pictures in of things to which your students can relate and get a discussion going. Make two lists on the board, one for *Wants* and the other for *Needs* and let the children decide which column each item goes in.]

Today we're going to learn that God promises to provide for our needs. All we have to do is ask! Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us today the food we need."

Opening Prayer

Father, thank You for giving us everything that we need, including the food we eat and the air that we breathe. Thanks for taking care of us. It feels good to be loved by You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Give us today the food we need. (Matthew 6:11)

Lesson

We've been learning the Lord's Prayer. Can anyone recite it? Let's review what we've learned so far:

Matthew 6:9-10a

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.

First, we learned that God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. He wants us to call Him, "Father." He is a loving Father who cares about us, understands what we're going through, and can comfort us. When Jesus gave His disciples this "recipe" for prayer, He told them to begin prayer by calling out to, "Our Father in Heaven."

Next, Jesus taught us that it is important for us to keep God's name holy. That means that we are to keep His name special. When you pray, it's important to remember Who you're talking to. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "Father, we admire You and adore You. We honor Your holy name."

Next, we learned that someday Jesus is coming back to Earth. When He gets here, He will set up His wonderful kingdom and live among us as our King. That will be an exciting day, indeed! That is a time we should all be longing for — and praying for. It thrills God's heart when we let Him know in prayer that we are eagerly looking forward to that day. Pray, "May Your Kingdom come soon."

In the meantime, we should be praying that people would do things God's way here on Earth! Pray, "Father, while we wait for Your return, help us to do Your will here on earth just as the angels do in heaven."

The next phrase in the prayer is...

Matthew 6:11

Give us today the food we need.

Jesus taught the disciples to pray first for God's will and then for their own needs. Some Bibles say it this way: "Give us today our daily bread." Bread is one of the most basic foods that we need. You could exist on bread and water alone, if that was all you could get. There is nothing wrong with asking God for your own basic needs. But remember to put God's will first.

Matthew 6:33

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Many children living in North America never experience true *want* because we live in such a rich land. You've probably never asked God to give you food to eat. But we must never lose sight of the fact that

God is our provider. He provides for us the food we eat. He makes the sun to shine and the rain to come down to water the plants. It's God who makes the seeds to sprout and grow into food to eat. God gives our moms and dads the jobs they have so they have money to buy the food we need to grow up strong and wise. It is God that provides for our every need. So, after we ask for God's will to be done, it's good and right to ask Him to provide for our needs. Just remember, God doesn't promise to give us everything we want. He knows what things would be good for us to have and what things we'd be better off without. He wants the very best for us. We can ask Him to provide for our needs.

Got the Gripes?

Having the right attitude makes a big difference. Have you ever been around someone that whines and complains a lot? How do you feel when you're around a complainer?

Tell me if you would complain about some of these situations:

- Your find out you're having brussels sprouts for dinner.
- Your brother ate the last piece of cake.
- Your teacher gave you extra homework.
- Your brother is sick and your dad asked you to do his chores on top of your regular chores.

Sometimes it's easy to complain when things aren't going our way. We can be upset when we can't have things that we want. What should you do when things don't go our way or we want something that we don't have? (Have a thankful heart!) The Bible tells us to be thankful in all things. Remember how gracious and kind God has already been to you.

When Jesus gave His disciples this "recipe" for prayer and He taught them to pray, "*Give us today the food we need*", it reminded them of a special time in their nation's history.

God's people had been slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses to come and rescue the people and lead them out of Egypt and take them to the Promised Land, just like how God sent Jesus to rescue us from our sins and lead us to Heaven.

Three days after they started off on their journey through the wilderness, they ran out of water. And they complained to Moses.

Exodus 15:22-24 [Teacher, read...]

Then Moses led the people of Israel away from the Red Sea, and they moved out into the desert of Shur. They traveled in this desert for three days without water. (23) When they came to the oasis of Marah, the water was too bitter to drink. So they called the place Marah (which means "bitter"). (24) Then the people complained and turned against Moses. "What are we going to drink?" they demanded.

After seeing God open the Red Sea for them to escape from their enemy, the Israelites should not have doubted that God would take care of their every need. But instead, they complained.

Exodus 15:25a

So Moses cried out to the Lord for help, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. Moses threw it into the water and this made the water good to drink.

God provided for their needs. And, God has provided everything *you* need in life, too; maybe not everything you want, but everything you need. Complaining is sin. It's like slapping God in the face and saying, "*What You've given me isn't good enough!*" When you complain, you are saying that He doesn't know how to care of you or meet your needs.

The Israelites traveled on. Pretty soon the people ran out of the food they'd brought from Egypt and they began to worry again.

How do you think God's people felt when they realized that they were out of food? What would you do if you thought you might starve in the middle of a desert? Soon they were grumbling.

Exodus 16:2-3

There, too, the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron. (3) "If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt," they moaned. "There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death."

The people were so upset, they told Moses that they'd rather return to being slaves. They remembered all the food in Egypt and wished they still lived there, even if it meant they would be slaves again.

So you see, even after the miracle of throwing the tree into the bitter waters of Marah to sweeten them, they were complaining about the lack of food. How quickly they forgot how faithful God had been to them all along. He provided that tree to sweeten the bitter waters, just like He has provided the cross of Jesus to sweeten our lives.

God heard the people grumble. He wasn't happy about their complaining, but he loved them and knew that they needed food.

Exodus 16:11-12

Then the Lord said to Moses, (12) "I have heard the Israelites' complaints. Now tell them, 'In the evening you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will have all the bread you want. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'"

God promised to meet the Hebrew's need for food in the desert. They didn't have to whine or complain to get their needs met. We have a good God who *wants* to meet our needs!

And He has provided a spiritual food for us that is even more nourishing than bread. Jesus said...

John 6:27

But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."

Jesus said not to worry about getting enough food to eat. Food is here today and gone tomorrow.

John 6:32-35

*Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. (33) The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (34) "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day." (35) Jesus replied, "**I am the bread of life.** Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*

Was Jesus telling his disciples that He was a loaf of bread? No! Jesus was telling His disciples that just like the Father gave the Israelites manna from heaven during their 40-year journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land, the Father gives Jesus to people during their journey through life towards heaven.

Jesus was comparing Himself with bread, a common, everyday thing that everybody can understand. [Break and eat a loaf of bread with the children. Discuss similarities of bread and Jesus.]

Bread is the basic food of life (the staff of life). You and I cannot live very long without eating, can we? Bread brings you nourishment and makes you grow. In the same way that food is the only source of life here on earth, Jesus is the only source of eternal life.

As our bodies feel hunger for food, so our souls feel hunger for forgiveness and peace. Only Jesus can satisfy the hunger of your soul. Just as bread will not do you any good unless you take it into your body, Jesus will not save you until you receive Him as your Savior from sin. Once you do, the Lord will continue to "feed" you spiritually through His Word.

So, you see, the Israelites didn't need to whine and complain. God wasn't about to let them starve. And, we don't need to whine or complain to have our needs met, either. God promises to provide for our needs. All we have to do is ask! Jesus taught us to pray, "*Give us today the food we need.*"

Closing Prayer

[Teacher, allow the children to thank God for being their great Provider.]

Father, we have many things that we need you to provide for us. Thanks so much for loving us and wanting to provide for our needs. We will ask you for everything that we need. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Picture This

[Teacher, let the children cut pictures out of magazines and catalogs of things they can ask God for. Then after you collect quite a few, draw a line down the middle of a poster board and write *Wants* at the top of one side and *Needs* at the top of the other.

Set a poster board in the middle of the circle and go through the pictures one by one. Let the children decide together whether it is a *want* or a *need*. Let children glue the pictures to the poster.]

Bread is one of the most basic foods that we need. When Jesus taught us to pray "*Give us today our daily bread,*" He was telling us to ask for the things that we need. God doesn't promise to give us everything that we want, but He will give us what we need.

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What should you pray for *before* you ask God to provide for your needs? (For His will to be done.)
2. Why do we say that God is our Provider? (He provides the food we eat, the air we breathe and our very life itself.)
3. Why is it that we complain about things sometimes? (Things don't go our way; we get upset when we can't have things we want.)
4. What should you do when things don't go your way? (Have a thankful heart.)
5. Why did the people complain to Moses after they had been rescued from slavery in Egypt? (First, they needed water and then, they needed food. They didn't trust God to supply their needs.)
6. Why is it a sin to complain? (It's like saying that God doesn't know how to take care of you.)
7. How do you think the people felt when they realized that God had provided for their needs by giving them the manna?
8. How does God provide for your needs?
9. Why is it important to ask God to provide for the things we need?
10. How do you think God feels when you complain about things you don't have?
11. Why doesn't God always give us what we want?

12. What's the best part of knowing that we can ask God for what we need?
13. How does God meet your need for "*daily bread*"?
14. Why does God want us to ask him to provide for all our needs? (It proves our dependence on Him.)
15. Why did Jesus compare Himself to a loaf of bread? (Like bread brings you physical nourishment, Jesus is our source of eternal life.)

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Forgive Us Our Sins

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

Heaven is a wonderful place. The Bible tells us that in heaven, the streets of the city are pure, clear gold like glass. God tells us many others things about His home. No one is ever sick there. No one ever dies. There is no night there. Every person in heaven will be perfectly happy always. What a special place it is! The most wonderful thing about heaven is that Jesus is there.

Heaven is perfect because God is perfect in every way. He has never thought or said or done anything wrong. That is why His home, heaven, is perfect, too. But there is one thing that can never be in heaven. That is sin.

Do you know what sin is? (The bad things we do) Yes, sin is anything we think, say, or do which does not please God. Sin causes sorrow and sadness in our world. Can you think of some things people do that are sin? (Stealing, lying, disobeying mom, saying bad or mean words.) Yes, those things are sin. The Bible says that every one of us has sinned—me, you, your parents—all people. We sin because we were born with a *want to* do things our own way instead of God's way.

God has said sin must be punished. The punishment for sin is death—to be separated from God forever. God knew there was nothing you could do to get rid of your sin. He knew you could not be good enough to please Him. So, He made a way for your sin to be forgiven.

Today we're going to learn why it's important for us to ask God for forgiveness when we do wrong things that hurt Him.

Opening Prayer

Father, we're glad we can ask You to forgive us when we sin. Thank You for being willing to forgive us and for making us clean again.

Please show us today why it's so important to turn to You whenever we do wrong things. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Forgive us our sins... (Matthew 6:12a)

Lesson

We've been learning the Lord's Prayer. Can anyone recite it? Let's say what we've learned so far together:

Matthew 6:9-10a

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.

First, we learned that God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. He wants us to call Him, "*Father*." He is a loving Father who cares about us, understands what we're going through, and can comfort us. When Jesus gave His disciples this recipe for prayer, He told them to begin prayer by calling out to, "*Our Father in Heaven*."

Next Jesus taught us that it is important for us to keep God's name holy. That means that we are to keep His name special. When you pray, it's important to remember Who you're talking to. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "*Father, we admire You and adore You. We honor Your holy name*."

Next, we learned that someday Jesus is coming back to Earth. When He gets here, He will set up His wonderful kingdom and live among us as our King. That will be an exciting day, indeed! That is a time we should all be longing for — and praying for. It thrills God's heart when we let Him know in prayer that we are eagerly looking forward to that day. Pray, "*May Your Kingdom come soon*."

And while we wait for God to come back and set up His kingdom on Earth, we learned that we should be praying that people would do things God's way here on Earth! Pray, "*Father, while we wait for Your return, help us to do Your will here on earth just as the angels do in heaven.*"

After we've asked that God's will be done, we can come to Him and ask Him to provide our basic needs. He is our great Provider! He may not provide all our *wants*, but He knows our everyday *needs* and promises to care for us.

The next phrase in the prayer is...

Matthew 6:12

Forgive us our sins.

Some versions of the Bible say it this way: "*Forgive us our debts.*" A *debt* is something we owe, like a bill. If you can't pay your electric bill, then you are *in debt* to the Electric Company. They may give you a period of *grace* to try to get the money to them, but if you don't pay your bill, they will turn your power off.

When we do something wrong, there is a price to pay, too. God has said sin *must* be punished. The punishment for sin is death—to be separated from God forever.

Hebrews 9:22b

*In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. **For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.***

This is why in the Old Testament times, they sacrificed animals. They knew that to have their sins paid for, blood had to be shed—a life had to be given. There is a price to pay when we sin; sin has to be punished.

Ten Commandments

God gave us ten good rules that He wants us to follow. [Teacher, show the children a poster of the Ten Commandments as paraphrased below:]

1. Do not have any gods but Me.
2. Do not worship idols.
3. Keep God's name holy.
4. Set aside a special day for God.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. Do not murder.
7. Be true to your husband or wife.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not want what others have.

God only gave us ten rules to keep. How are you doing?

- Can you think of a time when you didn't keep one of these rules?
- Have you ever cheated at a game? (That's lying.)
- Have you ever been angry with someone? (That's like murder.)

Matthew 5:21-22

You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' (22) But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court, And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

- Do you think it's a big deal if we disobey one of God's rules? Why or why not?

James 2:10

For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's law.

When we break one of God's rules, it's called sin. Even if it seems like a tiny thing to us, it's a big deal to God.

If you are perfect all your life – you never lie or cheat or steal – but then one day you call your brother an idiot, you've broken God's law and deserve to be punished by death.

- What do you think happens to your relationship with God when we break even one rule? What does sin do to our friendship with God?

Habakkuk 1:13a

But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil.

God is perfect. He can't even look at evil. When we sin, it messes up our friendship with God. He wants us to turn from our naughty behavior and do things that please Him.

But the good news is, the Lord Jesus took the punishment you and I deserved for our sins. When they nailed Him to the cross, what came from His hands and feet? (blood) The Bible says that while He hung there on the cross, God laid on the Lord Jesus the sin of all of us—all our lies, our meanness, our bad temper. All our sin was put on the sinless Jesus. Jesus shed His blood for us. It should have been you; it should have been me that was nailed to that cross. But He loves us so much that He took the punishment that we deserve!

What do you do when you disobey God? God wants to forgive us of our sins. All we have to do is pray and ask God for forgiveness. God will forgive us.

When we are naughty and come to God and confess our sins to Him and ask Him to forgive us, God says, your sin debt has already been paid for in full by Jesus. And then, He takes away the bad things we do so we can be friends with him again.

Mint Condition

[Teacher, give each child a few tarnished pennies.] When these pennies were first made, they were perfect. There was nothing wrong with them. They were bright, shiny copper pennies. But over the years, they started to tarnish. They don't look nice anymore. They're dull and dirty.

- How is this like what sin does to us?
- Why should we care that sin tarnishes us?

I want you to clean off the pennies. Make them nice and shiny again. Take a baby wipe, and rub your pennies until they look brand-new. [Give each child a baby wipe. Let the children rub their pennies for several minutes. If they get discouraged, prompt them to keep going. Say things like, "*Maybe you just need to try longer.*" After a few minutes, ask:]

- How is this like our ability to get rid of our sins by ourselves?

[Give each child a plastic cup and spoon. Pour one-half inch of vinegar into each cup. Have children fill their plastic spoons with baking soda and stir it into the vinegar. Have them drop their pennies into the mixture. While the mixture is working, read...]

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

This verse means that when we admit our sins to God, He will forgive us and make us clean again. All we have to do is ask. But we have to own up to our sins and plead guilty to God.

Then, He wants us to repent of our sins; that is, turn away from doing that naughty thing.

[Have the children remove their pennies from the solution.]

- How is the vinegar and baking soda like God's power to forgive?
- Why can we trust God to forgive us?
- Do you have the power to forgive yourself for your sins? (No! Only God has that kind of power!)

We don't have the power to get rid of the wrong things we do—just like we couldn't clean our own pennies. Only God has the right "formula" to make us clean. We mixed vinegar and baking soda to clean our pennies. God uses Jesus' blood to make us clean. Because Jesus shed His blood for us on the cross, every time we ask Him to, God will forgive us and make us clean again.

We don't need to be afraid of talking to God when we sin. God sees everything we do all the time. So, He already knows what you've done. God loves us and *wants* to forgive us. He's just waiting for us to come to him and say, "*Father, forgive me of my sins.*"

Crossed Out

Preparation: Before class cut out the shape of a cross from poster board. Fasten the cross to the wall with tape.]

The Bible says that we all do things that we know are wrong. We've already thought about ways we've broken God's rules, and we've learned that we can ask God to forgive us for doing these things. The reason God can forgive us is because Jesus paid the price, the debt, for our sins when He died on the cross.

[Have each child write on sticky notes things they know they have done that displease God. Give the group a few minutes. As they write out a sin, have them place the sticky note on the cross. Have the

children bow their heads and wait quietly as the other children finish up. Ask them to pray silently while they wait there.

When all the sticky notes have been placed upon the cross, turn it over so only the clean, white side is showing and all the "sins" are hiding on the other side.]

When we pray for forgiveness, what Jesus did on the cross takes away our sin. God the Father doesn't even see our sin anymore, because of what Jesus did on the cross. It's as if you never sinned. He sees you completely pure and clean.

Let's close by thanking God for forgiving us...

Closing Prayer

Father, all of us have sinned and we want to be forgiven. Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross and taking the punishment that we deserve for our sins. Thank You for being faithful and just to forgive us when we confess our sins to You. We love You very much. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What is a debt? (Something we owe)
2. How is sin like a debt to God? (He says that all sin must be punished.)

3. What is God's punishment for sin? (Death. There is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood.)
4. Have you ever done anything that deserves the death penalty? (All people have sinned and deserve to be punished by death!)
5. What came from Jesus' hands and feet when they nailed Him to the cross? (Blood)
6. What should you do when you break one of God's Ten Commandments? (Pray, confess, ask for forgiveness.)
7. What does *confess* mean? (To admit we're wrong. To own up to our sins and plead guilty to God.)
8. Do you have the power to forgive yourself of your sins? (No! Only God has the power to forgive sin.)
9. How can we become clean again when we've sinned? (When we pray, God promises to forgive us.)
10. What's the best thing about knowing that God forgives us when we pray? (We can ask God for forgiveness when we do something wrong. God promises to take away our sins and make us clean again.)
11. Why can we trust God to forgive us? (He said in 1 John 1:9 that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. He made a promise and He always keeps His promises!)
12. Why does what Jesus did on the cross take the punishment we deserve for sinning? (Because Jesus was God and is perfect. When He shed His blood it was the perfect sacrifice.)

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<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Help Us Forgive Others

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

[Teacher, show a magazine picture of two friends to the class. Talk about things we say or do that can hurt friendships. Explain that every time we hurt someone, or they hurt us, it tears our friendships apart. As you're speaking, slowly tear the picture of the two friends down the middle separating them.]

This is what happens when we don't forgive each other. Our friendships get torn apart. Last week we learned that Jesus taught His disciples, and us, to ask God to forgive our sins. This week we learn that it's just as important for us to forgive others when they sin against us.

Opening Prayer

Father, when others hurt us, it's difficult to forgive them. Often, we don't even want to forgive. We need Your help. Even though we've done things that displease You, You still love and forgive us. Help us understand how much You have loved and forgiven us so we will want to forgive others, too. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

*Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
(Matthew 6:12)*

Lesson

We've been learning the Lord's Prayer. Can anyone recite it? Let's say what we've learned so far together:

Matthew 6:9-10a

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.

Forgive us our sins.

First, we learned that God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. He wants us to call Him, "*Father*." He is a loving Father who cares about us, understands what we're going through, and can comfort us. When Jesus gave His disciples this recipe for prayer, He told them to begin prayer by calling out to, "*Our Father in Heaven*."

Next Jesus taught us that it is important for us to keep God's name holy. That means that we are to keep His name special. When you pray, it's important to remember Who you're talking to. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "*Father, we admire You and adore You. We honor Your holy name*."

Next, we learned that someday Jesus is coming back to Earth. When He gets here, He will set up His wonderful kingdom and live among us as our King. That will be an exciting day, indeed! That is a time we should all be longing for — and praying for. It thrills God's heart when we let Him know in prayer that we are eagerly looking forward to that day. Pray, "*May Your Kingdom come soon*."

And while we wait for God to come back and set up His kingdom on Earth, we learned that we should be praying that people would do things God's way here on Earth! Pray, "*Father, while we wait for Your return, help us to do Your will here on earth just as the angels do in heaven*."

After we've asked that God's will be done, we can come to Him and ask Him to provide our basic needs. He is our great Provider! He may not provide all our *wants*, but He knows our everyday *needs* and promises to care for us.

Next, we learned how important it is for us to ask God to forgive us when we sin. Because God is perfect, He has to punish all sin. The reason God can forgive us is because Jesus already paid the price, the debt, for our sins when He died on the cross.

The next phrase in the prayer is...

Matthew 6:12

...as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

After we ask God to forgive us for our sins against Him; then we should ask Him to “*Help us forgive those who sin against us.*” God expects us to forgive others.

Forgiving others can be hard. Sometimes people really disappoint us or hurt us. If someone is mean to you, you want to be mean back. If someone calls you a name; you want to call them a name back. And on it goes. Forgiveness goes against our natural instincts. It’s something we all have to learn to do.

- How do you feel when it is hard to forgive others?

How Would You Handle This Situation?

[Put the following situations on cards and let the children pick cards and tell how they would handle the situation.]

- Your teacher gave you lots of homework on the weekend. You had others plans, but had to cancel them because of your teacher.
- Your little brother left his toys out and Mom made you pick them up.
- Your sister borrowed your favorite jacket and spilled juice on it.
- Your best friend got to be team captain at recess and didn’t choose you for the team.
- You asked for the last piece of dessert but someone ate it.
- Your brother borrowed your video game and lost it.
- You called your friend, left a message, but your friend never called you back.

- Your parents made you help clean out the garage when you wanted to go to a friend’s house.

[After the activity, discuss the following questions:]

- What situations are the most difficult for you to forgive?
- Is there anything that you would never be willing to forgive someone for doing? (What and why?)

Last week we learned that God says that when we do something wrong, there is a price to pay. God says sin *must* be punished. The Bible tells us there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. A life has to be given. Even if we only did one naughty thing in our whole life, we would still deserve the death penalty. There is a price to pay.

But God came down out of heaven and lived among us. He was born as a baby and lived a sinless life, for one purpose. Jesus came so that He might shed His blood for us so that we could be forgiven of our sins.

Psalm 103:8

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to die so that we might live with Him forever in Heaven.

Psalm 103:10

He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.

It should have been you; it should have been me nailed to that cross. But He loves us so much that He took the punishment that we deserve!

Psalms 103:12

He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, when we pray for forgiveness, God doesn't even see our sin anymore. It's as if you never sinned. He sees you completely pure and clean.

Jeremiah 31:34b [Teacher, read...]

"And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

When God forgives us, He no longer remembers the wrong things we've done. God asks us to forgive others just as He forgives us.

How often do you think God forgives you? Well, suppose you sin one time per hour. Sin isn't just wrong actions others can see, but also selfish attitudes and hurtful thoughts no one but God knows about. Multiply that one sin per hour by sixteen waking hours a day, then by seven days a week, and then by fifty-two weeks in a year. By the time you're ten years old, you've already needed God's forgiveness at least 58,240 times! Aren't you glad God is so generous with His forgiveness?

God has forgiven you more times than you can count. Can't you offer that same forgiveness to others? God asks you to forgive others even when it's hard or when they don't deserve it.

Ephesians 4:31-32

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. (32) Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Comic Relief

[Teacher, give each child a marble-sized piece of Silly Putty modeling clay. One "egg" of Silly Putty is enough for two children. Or, you can

make your own putty by mixing ½ cup of white glue with ¼ cup liquid starch. For best results, add the liquid starch 1 tablespoon at a time, mixing thoroughly before adding more starch.

Demonstrate how to transfer a picture from a newspaper comic strip onto the putty by pressing the putty over the comic strip. Show children how they can stretch the putty to create different facial expressions on the comic strip characters. Let kids create angry or mad faces from the comic strip characters with the putty. Then have them squeeze the putty into a ball to erase the picture. Give kids a few minutes to transfer and erase several pictures. Then discuss the following:]

- Suppose you transferred a picture and never erased it. How is that like when we don't forgive someone?
- How is erasing the picture like God forgiving us?
- How does it make you feel to know that God doesn't remember your sins?
- How do you feel knowing that God expects you to forgive others just as He's forgiven you?

When we don't forgive someone, it is as if we have a picture of that person's sin on our minds. We keep looking at it over and over. God asks us to forgive others and put those pictures out of our minds.

Colossians 3:13

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

When you forgive someone, you need to forget about it, just like God does with your sins. [Teacher, erase the board.] If someone has wronged you, you need to erase the memory of their sin from your mind. Wipe it clean like this board.

When we remember that God has forgiven us for so much, we become more willing to extend that same forgiveness to others when they sin against us.

[Teacher, give the children adhesive bandages.]

Let's write words on these band aids that would help two friends forgive each other, for example, "I'm sorry" or "I forgive you."

[Use the bandages to stick the picture of the two friends back together and mend their friendship.]

When we do wrong, we want God to forgive us, don't we? Well, God expects you to forgive others completely in the same way we want Him to forgive us. If you're having a hard time forgiving someone, remember all the wrongs that God has forgiven you and ask Him to help you.

Matthew 6:14-15

If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. (15) But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Pray, "Forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us."

Closing Prayer

Father, we know You forgive us so often. You forgive the wrong things we do. You forgive the wrong things we say. You forgive our selfish, hurtful thoughts. You're always happy to forgive us and promise not to remember our sins. Thank You for forgiving us so freely. Lord, the sins of others against us are tiny compared to the sins You forgive us for doing. Help us remember that You want us to forgive others even when it is hard to forgive. Let us feel so thankful about being forgiven by You that we're happy to forgive others. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. After we ask God to forgive us of our sins, what should we ask Him for? (To help us forgive others that sin against us.)
2. Why is it sometimes hard to forgive others? (Sometimes people really disappoint us or hurt us.)
3. God says that sin must be punished. What is God's punishment for sin? (Death! Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin.)
4. What happens to our sin when we pray for forgiveness? (It's removed from us as far as the East is from the West.)
5. When we don't forgive someone, what happens to the memory of that sin? (It stays on our mind.)
6. What do you need to do when you forgive someone? (Forget about the sin; erase it from my mind.)
7. What helps us when we find it hard to forgive someone? (Remembering that God has forgiven us much.)
8. What are some words you can use to help mend a torn friendship? (I'm sorry, I forgive you.)

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<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Don't Let us Yield to Temptation

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

[Teacher, provide each child with a party noisemaker, such as a horn, whistle, rattle, or perhaps jingle bells.]

I'm going to hand out noisemakers, but I don't want you to make any sounds with them. Hold your noisemaker so that it will not make a sound. If you can't resist the temptation to make a sound with your instrument, we'll know right away because we'll hear it and I'll take the instrument away from you and you'll have to sit down.

While we're silently holding these instruments, we'll go around the circle and name things or situations that tempt us to do wrong things. (For example, sneaking a cookie when Mom said, "No!", playing video games when you're supposed to be doing homework, lying about doing something wrong, and so on.)

[Teacher, when you've gone around the circle, notice how many kids are still standing, and comment on whether this group seems to have a hard time resisting temptation or seems to be able to resist temptation fairly well. Then let all the kids stand and use their noisemakers for one whole minute, making as much noise as possible. Then collect the noisemakers.]

- What made it hard or easy for you to resist the temptation to use your noisemaker?
- Do you think you're usually good at resisting temptation or not?

Jesus knows that it's hard to always do what's right and that sometimes we get tempted to do the wrong thing—doing the wrong thing looks fun. Sometimes we're strong enough to say, "No!" to the temptation and that's when we do the right thing. Jesus told us that we can ask God to help us when we're tempted to do the wrong thing. The part of the Lord's Prayer that we're learning today says, "*Don't let us yield to temptation.*" This verse reminds us that God can give us strength to do what is right.

Opening Prayer

Father, every day we make choices. Sometimes we choose the right things, but other times, doing wrong seems easier or more fun. Temptations lead us away from Your path. Keep us close to You and give us strength to choose what is right. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Don't let us yield to temptation. (Matthew 6:13a)

Lesson

We've been learning the Lord's Prayer. Can anyone recite it? Let's say what we've learned so far together:

Matthew 6:9-10a

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.

Forgive us our sins.

...as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

First, we learned that God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. He wants us to call Him, "*Father.*" He is a loving Father who cares about us, understands what we're going through, and can comfort us. When Jesus gave His disciples this recipe for prayer, He told them to begin prayer by calling out to, "*Our Father in Heaven.*"

Next, Jesus taught us that it is important for us to keep God's name holy. That means that we are to keep His name special. When you pray, it's important to remember Who you're talking to. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "*Father, we admire You and adore You. We honor Your holy name.*"

Next, we learned that someday Jesus is coming back to Earth. When He gets here, He will set up His wonderful kingdom and live among us as our King. That will be an exciting day, indeed! That is a time we should all be longing for — and praying for. It thrills God's heart when we let Him know in prayer that we are eagerly looking forward to that day. Pray, "*May Your Kingdom come soon.*"

And while we wait for God to come back and set up His kingdom on Earth, we learned that we should be praying that people would do things God's way here on Earth! Pray, "*Father, while we wait for Your return, help us to do Your will here on earth just as the angels do in heaven.*"

After we've asked that God's will be done, we can come to Him and ask Him to provide our basic needs. He is our great Provider! He may not provide all our *wants*, but He knows our everyday *needs* and promises to care for us.

Next, we learned how important it is for us to ask God to forgive us when we sin. Because God is perfect He has to punish all sin. The reason God can forgive us is because Jesus already paid the price, the debt, for our sins when He died on the cross.

Next, we learned that it isn't enough to ask God to forgive us; He expects us to forgive others completely in the same way we want Him to forgive us. If you're having a hard time forgiving someone, remember all the wrongs that God has forgiven you and ask Him to help you.

The next phrase in the prayer is...

Matthew 6:13

And don't let us yield to temptation.

Today we're going to learn how important it is for us to resist the temptation to sin.

The word "*yield*" means *to give into*. How many of you have seen a Yield sign along the highway?



It tells drivers to let the incoming traffic into the flow—to give way to the other cars that are trying to merge into the traffic.

What is *temptation*? Temptation is the attraction to do something wrong. When you yield to the temptation to sin, you give in to the desire to think a wrong thought or say a wrong thing or do something that you know is not pleasing to God.

We are tempted to do wrong every day. We are all born with a *want* to do things our *own* way instead of God's way.

A temptation usually comes as an invitation to do something that you know is against the rules, but it looks easy or fun and you decide to do it even though it's wrong. It may seem like it's worth the risk at the time; but when we make a choice to do a wrong thing it is always disappointing to God.

Here's what God's word says about temptation:

James 1:12

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Do you know where temptation to do wrong comes from?

James 1:13-15

*And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong and **he never tempts anyone** else. (14) Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. (15) These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.*

This verse tells us that God doesn't tempt us. Temptation to sin comes from our own sinful nature. Temptation to sin can also come from the Devil. He can put those thoughts and ideas into your mind.

The Way Out

It's important to realize that the temptation to sin is not the sin. It's what you do with the temptation that can be sinful. Let me illustrate this.

[Teacher, make two signs, one that says, "God" and another that says, "Sin." Choose two children to stand on either side of you to hold these two signs up in front of them.]

If I am looking at God [*turn and face the "God" sign*] and I'm doing what pleases Him, I will not choose to sin.

What's something that might tempt you to look away from God and stop doing right? [Have children call out things that might tempt them to do wrong.]

If I think about doing [*one of their ideas*] I start to turn away from God. [*Slowly turn away from the "God" sign and face the children.*]

I am thinking about whether I should do what is right [*face the "God" sign*] or what is wrong [*face the "Sin" sign*]. This middle time where I am thinking of whether to do right or wrong is the time that I am being tempted. So far, I haven't sinned. But, if I decide to do the wrong thing, I *will* sin. [*Turn and put your arm around the child holding the "Sin" sign.*] But, if I decide I don't want to sin and I *want* to obey God [*turn and put your arm around the child holding the "God" sign*] then I made a choice NOT to sin.

It's our own desires that turn us from God and entice us to choose sin. God doesn't tempt us. In fact, God can give us strength so that we don't sin!

1 Corinthians 10:13

*The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted he will show you **a way out** so that you can endure.*

God will provide "a way out" for us when we're tempted. That means that when we're tempted to do wrong, there's always that *in between* time when we have a choice to do the right thing – the thing that would please God and bring His name honor.

[Teacher, have children form three groups. Give each group one of the following scenarios. Let them discuss the situations and decide what the temptation is and what the "way out" is for the child in the story.]

Situation 1:

Chad was excited about spending the night at Zachary's house with some other guys from school. When it got late, Chris suggested they watch a movie. He brought out *Shriek of the Vampire*. Chad's parents didn't want him to watch horror movies. Tyler teased, "*Chad can't watch it. He'd be scared!*" Chad wanted to watch the movie. His parents probably wouldn't find out anyway. But Chad knew it was wrong to disobey them. He wondered to himself, "*What should I do?*"

- What was Chad tempted to do?
- What was Chad's "way out"?

Situation 2

Amanda and Polly always sat together at lunch. Neither one had to worry about sitting alone. Amanda always knew she had a friend, not like Kristen who always sat by herself. Kristen was not popular, and most people thought she was kind of annoying.

One day, while Amanda and Polly were eating, Kristen walked right toward them. Polly said, "*Quick put your book on that empty seat so she won't sit here.*"

- What was Amanda tempted to do?
- What was Amanda's "way out"?

Situation 3

Cameron's parents told him he couldn't play any video games until his homework was done and his room was clean. Cameron did clean his room, but then got tired of working and decided he needed a rest. "*My parents are in the kitchen talking. They won't know if I play just one video game before I start my homework,*" he thought.

- What was Cameron tempted to do?
- What was Cameron's "way out"?

- How does knowing God, help us know which actions are right and which are wrong in these situations?
- When can we ask God to give us strength?

Everyone is tempted to sin every day. Did you know that even Jesus faced temptation while he was on earth?

Hebrews 4:15-16

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testing we do, yet he did not sin. (16) So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Jesus is the "high priest" mentioned in this verse. Although Jesus was tempted, He never gave in to temptation or sinned. Since Jesus understands temptation, we can go to him for help whenever we're tempted.

Temptation Rap

[Teacher, write the words to the rap below on a poster, and post it so everyone can see them. Have the kids work together to develop actions to accompany the words.]

*Sometimes I feel it's only me
Who finds it hard as it can be
To do the things I know I should,
Avoid the wrong and do the good.
But others have this trouble, too.
And now I know what I should do!
When tempted now to go astray,
I'll look to God, yes, stop and pray.
I'll ask His help to keep me strong
And follow His way, all day long.*

- How can we help each other resist temptation?

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for promising to provide a way out when we are tempted to do wrong. Help us recognize temptations that pull us away from You and remember You can give us strength to do what's right. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities**Craft Corner****Game Center****Tackling Temptation**

Preparation: Have children choose partners; each game is played by two. Enlarge, then cut out a game board for each set of children; have a different colored set of cards for each child that plays.

Play: Shuffle each set of colored cards and place them face down in individual piles, one of each color. The first child draws the top card of his color, reads it aloud, and decides how the action on the card can help overcome one of the temptations on the board. He places the card over that temptation. (Some cards may be appropriate for more than one temptation, so the child may choose which temptation to cover with the card.) Then, the other child draws the top card of his color, and places it over a temptation.

The first child to cover four temptations in a row in any direction wins.

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Tackling Temptation

Playing Board

Sometimes I am tempted to stay outside too late.	Sometimes I am tempted to copy from someone else's homework.	Sometimes I am tempted to stay home from church to play.	Sometimes I am tempted to take a candy bar that isn't mine.
Sometimes I am tempted to make fun of someone who is different.	Sometimes I am tempted to use bad language when I'm angry.	Sometimes I am tempted to blame my friend for my own mistake.	Sometimes I am tempted to copy answers from someone else's test.
Sometimes I am tempted to laugh when someone is being teased.	Sometimes I am tempted to eat a cookie when Dad said wait 'til later.	Sometimes I am tempted to watch a TV show Mom said not to watch.	Sometimes I am tempted to hide my toys under my bed when Dad says to clean up.
Sometimes I am tempted to cheat when playing a game.	Sometimes I am tempted to make fun of my teacher when he or she isn't looking.	Sometimes I am tempted to poke my brother in the ribs, then say he poked me first.	Sometimes I am tempted to be rude to my teacher.

Game Cards

God can give me strength to be inside on time.	God can give me strength to turn off the TV and do my homework.	God can give me strength to go to church now and play later.	God can give me strength to save my allowance to buy a candy bar.
God can give me strength to be kind to others, even if it's hard.	God can give me strength to use kind words.	God can give me strength to admit when I'm wrong.	God can give me strength to study for my test.
God can give me strength to stand up for those who are being teased.	God can give me strength to wait 'til after dinner to have dessert.	God can give me strength to obey when Mom says to turn off the TV.	God can give me strength to clean my room when asked.
God can give me strength to follow the rules to games.	God can give me strength to show respect to adults.	God can give me strength to show kindness to my brother.	God can give me strength to be polite to my teacher.

Rescue Us from the Evil One

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

[Teacher, have the kids stand shoulder to shoulder in a tight circle, facing outward, with their arms crossed in front of them.]

If we were in a battle against a terrible enemy, we'd do everything possible to shield ourselves from the attack. We could stand close together like this and let our arms shield us.

Jesus knows that we face an enemy who tries to destroy our faith. In the Lord's prayer, He taught us to pray, "*Rescue us from the evil one.*" As we pray, let's continue to stand as if we're shielding ourselves from danger.

Opening Prayer

Father, when You taught Your disciples to pray, You encouraged them to ask for protection from the evil one. Give us wisdom to recognize the evil influences the devil uses to hurt us. Help us avoid evil and trust You to protect us. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Rescue us from the evil one. (Matthew 6:13b)

Lesson

We've been learning the Lord's Prayer. Can anyone recite it? Let's say what we've learned so far together:

Matthew 6:9-10a

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.

Forgive us our sins.

...as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

And don't let us yield to temptation.

First, we learned that God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. He wants us to call Him, "*Father.*" He is a loving Father who cares about us, understands what we're going through, and can comfort us. When Jesus gave His disciples this recipe for prayer, He told them to begin prayer by calling out to, "*Our Father in Heaven.*"

Next, Jesus taught us that it is important for us to keep God's name holy. That means that we are to keep His name special. When you pray, it's important to remember Who you're talking to. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "*Father, we admire You and adore You. We honor Your holy name.*"

Next, we learned that someday Jesus is coming back to Earth. When He gets here, He will set up His wonderful kingdom and live among us as our King. That will be an exciting day, indeed! That is a time we should all be longing for — and praying for. It thrills God's heart when we let Him know in prayer that we are eagerly looking forward to that day. Pray, "*May Your Kingdom come soon.*"

And while we wait for God to come back and set up His kingdom on Earth, we learned that we should be praying that people would do things God's way here on Earth! Pray, "*Father, while we wait for Your return, help us to do Your will here on earth just as the angels do in heaven.*"

After we've asked that God's will be done, we can come to Him and ask Him to provide our basic needs. He is our great Provider! He may not provide all our *wants*, but He knows our everyday *needs* and promises to care for us.

Next, we learned how important it is for us to ask God to forgive us when we sin. Because God is perfect, He has to punish all sin. The reason God can forgive us is because Jesus already paid the price, the debt, for our sins when He died on the cross.

Next, we learned that it isn't enough to ask God to forgive us; He expects us to forgive others completely in the same way we want Him to forgive us. If you're having a hard time forgiving someone, remember all the wrongs that God has forgiven you and ask Him to help you.

Next, we learned that it is important for us to resist the temptation to sin. Everyone is tempted to sin every day. But you always have a choice. God wants you to choose to do the right thing—the godly thing to please Him.

The next phrase in the prayer is...

Matthew 6:13b

Rescue us from the evil one.

Today we're going to learn that we have a very real enemy who is trying to destroy our faith. But we can look to God for strength and protection against Satan and his evil ways.

Protect Me!

[Preparation: Help kids brainstorm a list of things Satan might use to hurt us. Some examples are worry, doubt, anger, jealousy, greed. Have the kids write these things on pieces of scrap paper and then wad them up like a ball. Using a masking tape strip down the middle of the room, divide the children into two teams and give one team the pile of “grenades” (paper balls).]

Play: In our game, you're going to try to keep from being hit by these evil tricks of Satan.

[Teacher, make sure that each child on the offensive team has at least two “grenades”.]

At my signal, the team will throw the “grenades” at the other team. The other team is to try to avoid being hit.

[Teacher, allow the teams to reverse the roles so each team has an opportunity to throw the “grenades”. Then ask the following discussion questions:]

- What made it hard to dodge the “grenades”?
- What would help your team avoid being hit by all these evil influences?

[Teacher, play the game again, but this time, provide the defending team with one “shield.” You can use a plastic trash can lid, an umbrella, or your sample of the craft idea. As before let both teams have a chance to throw the “grenades”. Then, gather the playing items and have the children return to their seats.]

- How did you feel when the “grenades” came flying toward you this time?
- What difference did it make to have a shield?
- How did having only one shield affect the way your team worked together? (We got close together behind the shield.)
- How can God be like a shield to protect us from evil?

Satan uses all sorts of evil tricks to try to discourage, mislead, or harm people. Sometimes it seems as if evil influences are flying all around us. But God can protect us. He does not leave us defenseless, but provides us with protective armor and a spiritual shield to keep us safe.

Do you know what armor is? Armor is a special kind of suit worn for protection. Today deep-sea divers wear a kind of armor. People who go into outer space wear space suits. Even football players wear a type of armor.

During the time of Jesus, Roman soldiers wore armor to protect them in battle. In Ephesians 6, the pieces of a Roman soldier's armor are used as an object lesson to help us understand the protection God offers us in our battle against Satan.

Ephesians 6:10-17 [Teacher, read these verses leaving out key words for your class to “fill in the blanks”:]

¹⁰A final word: *Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.*

¹¹Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

¹²For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in the dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

¹⁴Stand your ground, putting on the **belt** of truth and the **body armor** [breastplate] of God’s righteousness.

¹⁵For **shoes**, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

¹⁶In addition to all of these, hold up the **shield** of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.

¹⁷Put on salvation as your **helmet**, and take the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Discussion of the pieces of armor

Belt – The Roman soldier wore a strong, wide piece of armor around the middle of his body like a belt. It not only protected his vital organs, but it held all the others pieces of the armor together. With his belt on, the soldier could move around with confidence, knowing his other pieces would not slip out of place.

Breastplate – The Roman soldier also wore a breastplate that covered his body from his neck to his waist — in the front and back. It was made of metal plates or chains so that no sword or arrow could go through it.



Shoes – Roman soldiers wore heavy protective foot gear. Their shoes made them sure-footed and stable in the battle with the enemy.

Shield – The Roman soldier's armor also included a large shield made of wood. It was about 21/2 feet across and 4 feet long, so it offered double protection for almost every part of the soldier's body. To get to him, the enemy's arrows had to get past the shield first and then pierce through the armor that was worn on the soldier's body. The sides of the shield were made to hook together with the shields of other soldiers so that an army could use them to form a wall of protection.

Helmet – No matter how much armor you have for your body, it will do you no good unless you protect your head. A soldier's helmet protected his head and gave him confidence that he was safe from the enemy's attack.

Sword – With our armor on, we now need something with which to fight back. We're ready to pick up our swords and go into battle

We are soldiers in God's army

The Devil is God's enemy. He hates God and that's why he also hates anyone that loves God! Satan has a whole army of demons that are always trying to get God's followers to doubt God and to turn against Him.

It's important to remember that Satan is not as powerful as God, but he *is* a strong enemy. He is more powerful than you and I. God is stronger than our enemy and He can protect us. That's why He's given us Spiritual armor to protect us spiritually.

- How do you think each of these pieces of spiritual armor can protect us in our battle with Satan? [Let the children give their ideas.]

When Satan attacks us with temptations, if we put on our spiritual armor, we will be able to stand and not give in to sin.

There are many ways God can protect us from the evil one. One way is the shield of faith.

The Roman soldier's enemies used everything they could think of to defeat the soldiers. Knowing the soldier's shields were made of wood, the enemy often set their arrows on fire before they shot them. Roman soldiers covered their wooden shields with cloth and tough leather then soaked them in water so that when a flaming arrow landed on the wet shield, the fire would immediately go out.

Satan, our enemy, shoots flaming arrows, or 'fiery darts,' at us, too. Satan wants you and me to doubt God. He wants us to doubt God's promises, His faithfulness, His goodness, and His power.

Some of the darts Satan shoots are lies, hateful thoughts about people or the desire to sin. We don't know when Satan will shoot one of his darts. He's like a sniper who shoots when we least expect it. We must always have our shields of faith in hand and be ready to use it. We need to have our spiritual shields of faith soaked in the living water of the Word of God. We do that by reading our Bibles and praying; and by listening and obeying God.

We also need to surround ourselves with Christian friends so that when we are tempted to give up our faith, we can '*hook on*' to their shields and let them encourage us (Hebrews 10:23-25). Hold your shield of faith high by trusting the truths you know about God. Even when things seem to be going wrong, believe that God is your always present, all-powerful, loving Father, working in your life for your good — even when your feelings tell you something different. Faith is acting on what you believe even when you have doubts.

If you have faith in God that means that you trust Him to protect you. Your faith will stop all the bad thoughts that come into your mind, like fear and worry and anger. Satan doesn't want us to trust God to protect us. He's always trying to make us afraid. But we can stand strong in our faith in God.

When we wear God's armor, we can be confident that God will "*rescue us from the evil one.*"

1 Peter 5:8

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.

This verse compares Satan to a lion hunting for prey to eat. Lions are dangerous, and we don't want to be near them! Remember that Jesus is stronger than Satan and He stands between us and evil.

Satan is a very real enemy. But remember that when Jesus was crucified on the cross, He defeated Satan. As we trust in Jesus, God rescues us from the evil one.

Closing Prayer

As we pray today, let's remember the armor God gives us. As I mention each piece of armor, pretend that you're putting it on, piece by piece. For example, when I mention the belt of truth, pretend you are putting a belt around your waist.

Father, thank You for sending Jesus to conquer evil for us. Thank You for giving us the armor of God.

- Thank You for the **belt of truth**.
- Thank You for the **breastplate of righteousness**.
- Thank You for the **shoes** of being ready to share the gospel of peace with others.
- Thank You for the **shield of faith**.
- Thank You for the **helmet of salvation**.
- Thank You for the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the Word of God.

Help us to remember to wear this armor every day so You can protect us from evil. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Stand Firm!

Let's make a shield to remind us that God gives us spiritual armor to protect us and make us stronger.

1. Cut a big poster-board shield.
 2. Cover the front of the shield with aluminum foil.
 3. Using a permanent marker, write one of the following verses on your shield.
 - The Lord your God is with you, He is a mighty savior. (Zephaniah 3:17a)
 - God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. (Psalm 46:1)
 - Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (Ephesians 6:10)
 - Rescue us from the evil one. (Matthew 6:13b)
 - The Lord is my strength and shield, I trust Him with all my heart. (Psalm 28:7)
 4. Cut a chenille wire in half, and tape it as a "handle" to the back.
- Keep your shield in your room to remind you that with God's armor, we can stand firm against the devil

For Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory Forever

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

We've been learning the Lord's Prayer, which is a recipe for prayer that Jesus gave His followers as an example to follow. The Lord's Prayer is such an important example, we have wanted you to learn it well so you can keep it in your heart.

Most people finish this prayer by saying, "*For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen*" This isn't included in all Bibles, but it's a tradition most churches use to end the Lord's Prayer, so we'll end ours that way today. Let's begin our time today by saying it all together.

Opening Prayer

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. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Memory Verse

"For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen"
(Matthew 6:13c)

Lesson

Jesus taught his followers the Lord's Prayer as an example to help us know *how* to pray. Jesus wanted us to know that when we talk to God there's much more to talk to Him about than asking Him for things.

The Bible encourages us to pray in lots of different ways. Some of these Bible verses will spark ideas for prayer.

[Teacher, have the children form groups. Assign each group one of the following verses:]

In your groups, read your verse aloud and decide what this verse teaches us about prayer. Then, work together to think of a way to express this verse in a prayer.

- 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- Ephesians 6:4
- Hebrews 13:17a
- Luke 6:28
- James 5:14-15a
- Hebrews 13:3
- Philippians 1:9
- 1 Chronicles 29:11

[Teacher, as the groups share what they have discovered about the verse assigned to them, keep a list on the board of the major topics for prayer: Government officials, parents, etc.]

There's lots of things to pray for! Every day we have experiences that give us ideas for prayer:

- If you see a child crying, what could you pray?
- If you hear an emergency-vehicle siren, what could you pray?
- If someone shares an answer to prayer, what could you pray?

There are many things to talk to God about, aren't there?

One of the best things about having really good friends is being able to tell them anything—not just the great things about your life but the tough things, too. God is that kind of friend. People in the Bible knew that God was their friend, and they talked to God whether they were happy, sad, scared, or confused.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says that we should "*Never stop praying.*"

Ephesians 6:18

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Jesus wants us to talk to God through prayer all the time about anything and everything. We need to make prayer a regular part of our every-day life.

In the first lesson of this series on the Lord's Prayer we learned some things about prayer that Jesus taught His disciples I want to review with you:

Matthew 6:5

When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.

God doesn't want us to be hypocrites when we pray. What's a *hypocrite*? (A pretender, a deceiver, or a phony) God doesn't want us to pray just to show off to others; He wants us to pray sincerely from our hearts directly to Him.

Matthew 6:6

But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

God wants us to pray privately where it's just the two of you. He said to pray in your secret place where you can't be distracted.

Matthew 6:7-8

When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of others religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. (8) Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

God wants us to have simple, honest prayers. It's not necessary to repeat the same words over and over. He knows our need before we even ask Him, anyway.

Close your prayer as you began it, by remembering who it is you've been talking to...

Matthew 6:13c

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Think about it. You have been talking to the creator of the whole universe! He's all-knowing and all-wise. Our God rules over all. He alone has the power to help us each day. And He will! He can answer your prayers! Having this in your mind when you pray gives you confidence. Whatever happens, you and I want God to have all the praise and honor.

Closing Prayer

Let's close by saying the Lord's Prayer again together, using the ending that we learned today.

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. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Lord's Prayer Plaques

Allow the children to make nice keepsake plaques with the Lord's Prayer on it to hang in their rooms at home.

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Review questions:

1. Why do we call the Lord's Prayer a recipe for prayer? (Because it gives us the ingredients for a good prayer.)
2. What is the special ending that most people finish the Lord's prayer with? (*For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*)
3. What are some of the things you can pray to God about? (Government officials, parents, poor people, sick, etc.)
4. How often does God want you to pray? ("*At all times and on every occasion*".)
5. When you pray, what did Jesus say NOT to be like? (Don't be like a hypocrites who love to pray just to show off.)
6. What's a *hypocrite*? (A pretender, a phony)
7. When you pray, where did Jesus say to go to pray? (To a private place; into your prayer "*closet*", the secret place.)
8. Why did Jesus say not to babble on and on when we pray? (He wants us to have simple, honest prayers. It's not necessary to repeat the same words over and over. He knows our needs.)
9. Why did Jesus say to keep on asking and seeking and knocking until you get an answer? (He doesn't ever want you to give up on Him, even when He doesn't answer you right away. He wants you to trust Him.)
10. Can you say the whole Lord's Prayer by heart?

Did He Hear Me?

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

What is prayer? (Prayer is talking to God) What sorts of things can you talk to God about?

- You can tell Him how great He is.
- We can ask Him to forgive us when we do wrong.
- We can thank Him for all that He does for us and for others.
- We can talk to Him about the things that make us sad and the things that make us glad.
- We can ask Him to meet our needs and the needs of family members, friends, neighbors, etc.

There are many reasons to pray. But sometimes it seems like God doesn't hear us. Today we're going to learn that God *always* hears and answers our prayers, but sometimes His answers are not what we *want* to hear.

Opening Prayer

Father, help us to remember that You hear when we call to You. Teach us to have faith to wait for You to answer us and then teach us to accept the answer You give us. Help us grow in our faith and in our prayer life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

The Lord will hear when I call to him. (Psalm 4:3b)

Lesson

The Bible tells us how God has answered other people's prayer. We're going to do some exploring in our Bibles to learn more about how God answers your prayers.

[Teacher have children form five groups. Give each group one of the following assignments. Allow children time to read the Bible verses as instructed and to discuss their questions. After children have had time to discuss these Bible stories, have one child from each group report what they learned.]

Hannah

Read 1 Samuel 1:9-11 to find out what Hannah prayed about. Then read 1 Samuel 1:20 for God's answer.

Discuss the following question in your group:

- What did Hannah want God to give her?
 - How did God answer?
 - How do you think Hannah felt when God answered her prayer?
-
- Hannah wanted a son.
 - God gave her a son.
 - She was so grateful to the Lord for giving her a son, she dedicated him to God for the rest of his life.

Elijah

Read 1 Kings 18:36-37 to find out what Elijah prayer. Then read 1 Kings 18:38-39 to find God's answer.

Discuss the following questions in your group:

- What request did Elijah make to God?
- How did God answer?
- How would you feel to have such a quick and amazing response to your prayer?

- Elijah asked God to prove to the people that He is God.
- God sent fire down and burned up the sacrifice.
- I would be amazed and convinced that God is real!

Jonah

Read Jonah 2:1-3 to learn why Jonah was praying. Then read Jonah 2:10 to see how God answered Jonah's prayer.

Discuss the following questions with your group:

- What did Jonah pray about?
- How did God answer?
- How do you think Jonah felt about God's answer to his prayer?

- Jonah called out from the belly of the whale for help!
- The LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah up on the beach.

Israelites

Read Exodus 2:23-24 to find out what the Israelite people were praying for, and then read Exodus 12:31-32 and Exodus 40-41 to see how God answered them.

Discuss the following question in your group:

- What did the Israelites pray that God would do?
- How did God answer?
- How long did the Israelites have to wait for God's answer?
- How do you think they felt during those many years?
- The Israelites were groaning under their slavery and cried out for help.
- Pharaoh told Moses, "*Get out, you and your Israelites! Leave my country...*"
- They had to wait 430 years for God's answer.
- The people hated being slaves of the Pharaoh.

David

Read 2 Samuel 12:15-17 to find out what David prayed about. Then read 2 Samuel 12:18, 22-23 to find out how God answered David.

Discuss the following questions in your group:

- What was David asking God to do?
 - How did God answer?
 - How did David react to this answer from God?
-
- David prayed that God would heal the child that Uriah's wife had borne to him.
 - God did not heal the baby; the baby died.
 - David stopped mourning for the child once he died.

God has three answers to prayer: *yes*, *no*, and *wait*.

We really like it when God says “yes,” and we can deal with it when he says “no.” We might be a little disappointed, but if we know God, we know He always wants what is best for us. But, it’s harder when we have to wait for God’s answer. Sometimes we think that He hasn’t even heard our prayers. But, God makes us wait for His answers so that our faith and trust in Him will grow.

Ask, Seek, Knock (Matthew 7:7-11)

In the first lesson of this series on the Lord’s Prayer we learned that it is important to never give up on God. We can be sure that God hears our prayers and that God answers all our prayers.

Matthew 7:7-8

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. (8) For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

What Jesus is telling us here is to be persistent in our prayers. Don’t give up if God doesn’t answer your prayers right away. Keep on asking, keep on seeking God, keep on knocking at the door. Trusting in God takes faith. Sometimes He doesn’t answer your prayers right away; sometimes He makes us wait. But Jesus assures us that we will be rewarded. Don’t give up in trying to seek God. Continue to ask Him for wisdom, love, and understanding. He will give them to you.

1 John 5:14-15:

And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. (15) And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

If you are praying according to His will, He hears your prayers and you can be confident that He will answer. If you ask for something that is good for you, He will gladly give it to you. He loves you and wants what is best for you.

God is not selfish, or mean, or stingy. We don’t have to beg or plead as we come with our requests. He is a loving Father who understands, cares, and comforts.

[Teacher, spend the last few minutes of class in prayer with your students.]

Closing Prayer

Father, we praise and thank You for hearing and answering our prayers. We ask that You use our prayers to help us grow in our faith and to help change the world. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

This is the last lesson in this series. Make the game today something that is full of energy and vigor! Make a party out of it!

Perhaps you can create a game like "Jeopardy" by assigning the following Review Questions point values. Then print the point values on individual Post-it Notes. For "categories", you could reword the questions so they are *Who*, *What*, *Where*, *When*, and *How*. Or, you could use the phrases from the Lord's Prayer. Be creative!

Divide the children into teams (boys against girls). Allow a child from a team to choose a Category and a Point Value. For a correct answer remove the sticky note and award their team the points.



Final Review and Wrap up of the Lord's Prayer Questions:

1. Why did Jesus give His disciples this prayer? (His disciples noticed that Jesus prayed a lot and asked Him to teach them how to pray.)
2. What right do you have to call God, "*Father*?" (When we believe in Jesus, we become a child of God. Only those who have received the Lord Jesus as Savior are sons and daughters in God's family.)
3. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? (To believe that Jesus really is God and that when He died on the cross, He satisfied God's requirement that all sin be punished.)
4. What does it mean to keep God's name holy? (To keep it special.)
5. How do you keep God's name holy? (By honoring God's name. Pray, "*Father, we admire You, we adore You, You are wonderful, excellent and marvelous. You deserve our praise... We honor Your holy name.*")
6. What does it mean to pray "*Your kingdom come*?" (Pray for the second coming of Jesus. It will be a glorious day when He comes to set up His wonderful kingdom on earth and live among us.)
7. Why does God wait to come back and set up His kingdom on earth? (Right now, God is allowing Satan to work on earth to give people the opportunity to choose between right and wrong.)
8. What will God do with Satan when Jesus comes back to set up His kingdom on earth? (He'll throw Satan into the bottomless pit.)
9. What does it mean to pray "*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*?" (That God will have His perfect way in our lives.)
10. What does it mean to ask God for "*our daily bread*"? Does God give you bread? (God is the One we must look to for all our daily needs.)

11. What are some everyday needs that you should ask God for?
(Ask God to keep your parents healthy and able to work Continue to ask Him for wisdom, love, and understanding.)
12. What does it mean to ask God to "*forgive us our debts*"? (A debt is something you owe. We need to ask God to forgive us of our sins, our debt to Him.)
13. What does it mean when it says that we should, "*forgive our debtors*?" (A debtor is someone who owes me something. I need to forgive people who do wrong things to me.)
14. Has anyone ever disappointed you or let you down or hurt your feelings? Have you found it hard to forgive them for hurting you?
(God expects us to forgive others completely in the same way we want Him to forgive us.)
15. When we're feeling unable to forgive someone, what should we do? (Think of all the wrongs that God has forgiven you of, and ask Him to help you forgive others.)
16. What does it mean to ask God to "*not lead us into temptation*"?
(Ask God to keep things out of our life that would make it easy for us to sin.)
17. What does it mean to ask God to "*deliver us from the evil one*"?
(Ask God to give us the strength to keep from giving in to Satan's temptations to have wrong thoughts and to do wrong.)
18. How should we end our prayers? (Close your prayer as you began it, by remembering who it is you're talking to. God, the ruler of the whole universe. He alone has the power to help us.)

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