

Small Group Leader's Guide
Theme: Prayer

Date: 30/31 August

Lesson 3: What do we pray?

Objective: That the children will learn the Lord's Prayer.

Bible Text: Matthew 6:5-13

Memory Verse:

At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people. – **Ephesians 6:18** (NIRV)

Character / Virtue Focus: Perseverance

Introduction

We have started a new series on teaching the children on prayer. There will be various aspects of prayer that we will be covering such as "What is Prayer?" and "How to pray?" Other topics include "Prayer Intercession" and "Praying in the Spirit". Prayer is really the foundation of growing closer to God. If children can learn to lay hold of prayer earlier in their lives, we believe they will go through life more victorious. In the course of learning to pray, they can also develop the character of Perseverance. So leaders, let's get on into this exciting journey with your kids. For this series, we want to specially acknowledge Karen Henley's curriculum on Prayer and Mark Harper's curriculum on Learning to Pray.

- Week 1 – What is Prayer?
- Week 2 – What do we pray?
- Week 3 – How do we pray?
- Week 4 – Praying the Psalms
- Week 5 – Prayer Intercession I
- Week 6 – Prayer Intercession II
- Week 7 – Praying in the Spirit

Connect/ Ice-breaker – Prayer Warrior Hunt (15 mins)

Give each child a copy of the Prayer Warrior Hunt handout (**GKidz to provide**). Tell the children to find other children in their group who fit the description in the Bingo. When the description matches, the other person must sign their name on the Bingo sheet. The children must try to get as many different names as possible.

Leader to say: Just now when we were all going from person to person to get signatures, we were trying to do it as quickly as possible, because time was running out. In the same way, when we pray, we need to pray with a sense of urgency because our prayers matter and are needed to make a difference in the areas that we're praying for.

Lesson (10 mins)

Ask the children, "How many of you used the Prayer Clock and prayed at least one time last week?" Affirm those who did it. Encourage them to do it again the following week, at least once a week. It will take time to make it a habit.

Today, we will learn how to pray using the Lord's Prayer. Let's read from Matthew 6: 5-7. Here we see that Jesus was teaching His disciples the way to pray. He mentioned the two things that we should not do during prayer. What are the 2 things? (Let the children respond)

The 2 things that we should not do during prayers are:-

1. Pray in a way to attract attention – Say to God, not to people: Do not pretend nor attract attention when we pray. Jesus said that some of the religious leaders pray because they want people to think that they are holy. They just want people to see them when they pray.

2. Pray to impress others – Say a lot of things: Do not keep talking on and on and try to impress people with how much you know. This is showing off.

Then Jesus went on to teach them about how to pray. Let's continue to read Matthew 6:9-13.

To help us remember the Lord's Prayer, we are going to do a simple activity.

Activity (20 mins)

Materials: The Lord's Prayer print out, pens or pencils (GKidz to provide)

Give each child a print out sheet. The children are going to make the Lord's Prayer origami. When they open it up, they will have 8 folds.

In each of the 8 triangles, guide the children to draw the following symbols:

- 1 – STAR
- 2 – CROWN
- 3 – BREAD
- 4 – CROSS
- 5 – FROWNING FACE
- 6 – SUN
- 7 – QUESTION MARK
- 8 – SMILEY FACE

Follow the orientation of the numbers to know which way to draw the pictures

THE

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Our Father in heaven, may your Name be honored.

May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven.

LORD'S

☀

And don't let us yield to temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

Matthew 6:9-13

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And forgive us our sins just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.

Give us our food for today.

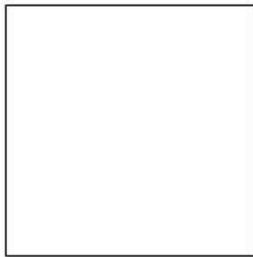
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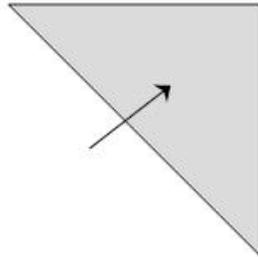
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Create the origami using the following instructions:

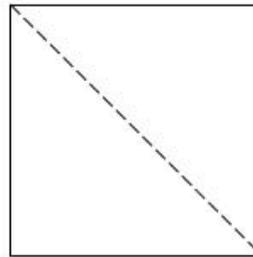
START FOLDING WITH THE PRINTED SIDE DOWN



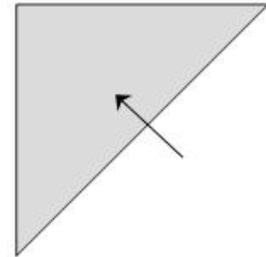
Take a square of paper.



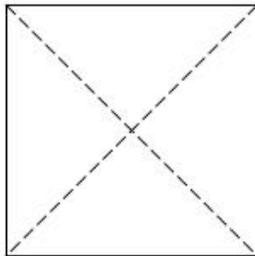
Fold it over like this.



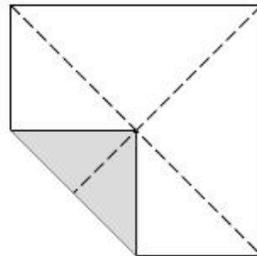
Unfold it.



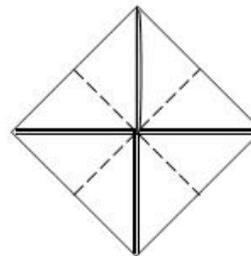
Now fold it the other way.



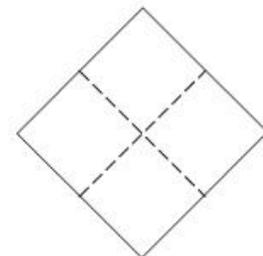
Unfold it and your paper should look like this.



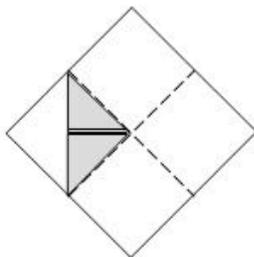
Fold all 4 corners to the center of the square so the points just touch it.



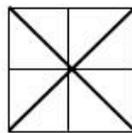
Your paper should look like this.



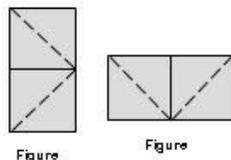
Flip your paper over so the folds you just made are turned down.



Fold the corners to the center again.



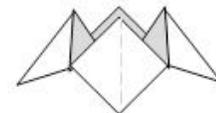
Your paper should look like this.



Fold it sideways like Figure 1 then unfold it. Now fold it up like Figure 2.



Put your fingers under the 4 open corners.



Here is how it looks finished and open.

Guide the children to recite the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, after you, using the symbols as a reference. You may want to write the following on the whiteboard.

Matthew 6:9-13 (NirV) [v13 also includes the NASB version]

STAR: Our Father in heaven, may your Name be honored.

CROWN: May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven.

BREAD: Give us our food for today.

CROSS: And forgive us our sins just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.

FROWNING FACE: And don't let us yield to temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

QUESTION MARK: Matthew 6:9-13

SMILEY FACE: Good job!

Pair up the children and have them practice reciting the Lord's Prayer using the origami.

Character / Virtue Focus: Perseverance (12 mins)

Perseverance is sticking to something and being committed to do it. This week, as we learn to pray once a week using the Prayer Clock, encourage the children to persevere and start small.

Take 12 minutes to pray through the Prayer Clock.

Arrange the children to stand in a circle. Choose one child to start and pray for one minute for a segment, with the child on his/her left praying for the next segment. If you have fewer than 12 children, go around the circle again. If you have more than 12 children, let a pair of children pray for a segment, instead of just one.

Memory Verse Review (10 mins)

Write the Memory Verse on the whiteboard.

At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people. – **Ephesians 6:18** (NIRV)

Beanie Bag Balance (Perseverance Activity)

Materials: A bean bag, masking tape (GKidz to provide)

Have all the children recite the memory verse aloud. Give them a minute to remember the verse.

To help the children review the memory verse, have them queue up in one line. Ensure each child has a turn. He/she is to put a bean bag on his/her own head. He/she walks a short

distance to the “finish line” while balancing bean bag on head. If the bean bag drops, the child can pick up the bean bag and start all over again. While walking to the “finish line”, he/she has to recite the memory verse.

Affirm the children who persevere through balancing the bean bag on their head and reciting the memory verse.

(Note: Some children may not have developed multi-tasking skills, e.g., balancing an object and recalling from memory. Do be patient with children who can't)

Prayer Warrior Hunt

**Prays every
day at least
once**

**Has been to
prayer tower
before**

**Has prayed
with
someone for
that person's
prayer needs**

**Likes to pray
quietly**

**Has prayed
for our
church
before**

**Has prayed
in another
language e.g.
Chinese**

**Likes to pray
with eyes
open**

**Has prayed
outdoors
before**

**Likes to pray
with eyes
closed**

**Has said
grace for
their whole
family before**

**Likes to pray
loudly**

**Has prayed
with family
during
Family Altar
Time**