

Morning Overview

Lesson: *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God kept His greatest and best promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins.

In our lesson today, we pause on the story from Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to His Ascension in Matthew 28 and Acts 1. For the next few Sundays we will revisit some of the key teachings and stories found in Matthew 5-7, or what we call the Sermon on the Mount. The first of these lessons is the Lord's Prayer. A foundational activity to the Christian life is prayer. Jesus warns his listeners what prayer is not, and then what prayer is. Prayer can be many things, but at the center is an acknowledgement of our need and dependence on God. Hopefully this study can be a fruitful and encouraging time where children are not only taught why prayer is important, but you as a volunteer and teacher are reminded of why it's so important to your own spiritual life.

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-18; Luke 11:1-12

Story: Matthew 6:1-18; Luke 11:1-12.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: Hedbanz

Cherub Church

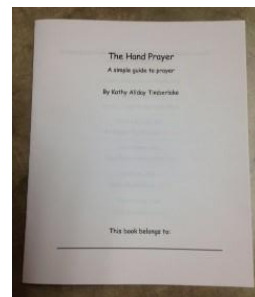
- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165, 164, 163)

Craft: Hand Prayer Booklet

Supplies: Prayer booklet, crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Have children trace their hand and color fingers following outline on Page 1 of booklet.
2. Write child's name on the front.
3. Encourage parents to complete booklet with their child and use often.



Relay of the Day: Instead of Relay, continue working through The Hand Prayer booklet

Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: Hedbanz

Craft: Hand Prayer Booklet (*or Prayer Hands)

Supplies: Prayer booklet, crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Have children trace their hand and color fingers following outline on Page 1 of booklet.
2. Write child's name on the front.
3. Encourage parents to complete booklet with their child and use often.

*** If child has attended 9:30 hour and is staying for 11:00, they have the option of working on Prayer Hands craft.**

Instructions:

1. Write on inside of hands things that child would like to pray for (Mom, Dad, teacher, dog, etc.)
2. Decorate hands as desired.



Relay of the Day: Instead of Relay, continue working through The Hand Prayer booklet

Story: *The Lord's Prayer*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, what is prayer? [Allow time for answers] When do you pray? And do you pray with anyone or by yourself or both? [Allow time for answers] Well in our story today, Jesus teaches us something very important about prayer. Let's read our story to find out what is so important...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- Jesus' time of teaching the Lord's Prayer is often found in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Where Jesus re-interprets the Mosaic Law as He is now the fulfillment of it.
- Jesus warns the people not to be like the hypocrites, or pretenders. They draw lots of attention to themselves to impress others, but their intentions are deceitful and works are vain.
- Jesus instructs in matters of giving to the poor, or even others, and prayer; to do those things privately and alone. This removes the temptation to try and impress other people. It also allows a person to focus only on the Lord.
- Jesus gives a model for how to pray to God too. We call it the Lord's Prayer.
- Jesus, in Matthew 6, reminds the hearer that forgiveness is the basis for prayer. Forgiveness from God has been extended to us by the accomplished work of Christ, therefore we should extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us. We can pray to God for forgiveness and for help to not sin too.

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, what is prayer? [Allow time for answers] When do you pray? And do you pray with anyone or by yourself or both? [Allow time for answers] Well in our story today, Jesus teaches us something very important about prayer. Let's read our story to find out what is so important...

The Lord's Prayer

There was a time in Jesus' life on earth where He went onto the side of a mountain to teach. He did this so everyone could hear Him. Jesus had many important things to tell the people that came to listen. One of the things He taught them was how to pray. Jesus warned the crowd, "Be careful! When you do good things, don't do them in front of people to be seen by them." Jesus knew that people could be tempted to show off. And Jesus went on, "When you give to the poor, don't be like the hypocrites (or pretenders). They blow trumpets before they give so that people will see them. They do that in the synagogues and on the streets. They want to impress other people." Jesus told the people listening to Him that when you give to the poor do it secretly or in private. The point was not to draw attention to yourself. In fact, Jesus said, "Your giving should be done in secret. Your Father in Heaven can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you."

And then came an important part about prayer. Jesus warned not to be like the hypocrites. Hypocrite is a big word for when someone says they'll do something, but they do the opposite. Or another way to think about it - hypocrites are like actors, they are only pretending to do something but they really are not. Hypocrites like to pray for everyone to see them, and they pray loudly so everyone will notice them. But Jesus says don't do that! Jesus says, "When you pray, you should go into your room and close the door. Then pray to your Father who cannot be seen. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you." Jesus also told people they did not have to say a lot of words to pray, but that "Your Father knows the things you need before you ask him."

Jesus knew that people would need help to pray. People forget to pray or sometimes they don't know the right words to say or what to say! So, Jesus said, "When you pray, you should pray like this:"

'Our Father in heaven,
we pray that your name will always be kept holy.
We pray that your kingdom will come.
We pray that what you want will be done,
here on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us the food we need for each day.
Forgive the sins we have done,
just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.
And do not cause us to be tested;
but save us from the Evil One.'
The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever. Amen.

Jesus wanted people to remember a few things when they pray. Remember God is great and big; He rules from Heaven and is powerful! Prayer should remind us that what God wants done or what God wants to happen is the most important thing, and not what we want! God is big and powerful, but God cares about us very much. He cares for every single one of us and takes care of us. For that we should be very thankful. Prayer reminds us that we can ask God for forgiveness when we sin against Him or mess up. And when others sin against us, or hurt us, we can forgive them too. And last, God is a God who helps us. When we really want to sin or mess up, we can pray to God for help to not sin. God does not want us to sin against Him!

Jesus taught these things because it is so easy to pretend to be good on the outside when we are really sinful on the inside (Gospel Story Bible, Page 187).

That's why Jesus wanted everyone to know that forgiveness is so important when praying. We can always go to God and ask for forgiveness. But Jesus said something that is very important: Just as God forgives us for when we sin, we should forgive others when they sin against us.

How is it possible for God to forgive us? Remember our lesson from a few weeks ago? God forgives us because Jesus died on the cross for our sins! We've been forgiven and we can always ask God for forgiveness and for His help! We just have to keep praying for it.

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Where did Jesus go to teach the people?
- Who did Jesus warn the people not to be like?
- What is a hypocrite?
- What did Jesus say hypocrites like to do?
- What does Jesus say to do when we want to do good things?
- Can you say the Lord's Prayer? [Allow for individual reciting or a group reciting]
- What should we remember about the Lord's Prayer?
- How many times can we pray to God?
- What did Jesus do so we can ask for forgiveness and help from God?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God's love for us?

Scripture Memory for April:

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

Catechism Questions (1-20)