

Pray the Prayer of Jesus!



The Prayer of Jesus - Sample

Teacher Introduction

There is only *one* prayer Jesus taught his followers to pray. There is nothing magical or mysterious about this prayer. Jesus doesn't say that if you pray this prayer things will go your way or you'll change God's mind regarding the circumstances in your life. No, this prayer, the Lord's Prayer, is a model of how to pray. It teaches us to trust in God and to pray for his will to be done in our lives.

Some people believe if they say just the right words or repeat a special prayer over and over again, or if they pray at a special time of day or to someone or something, then God will hear their prayers and do what they ask of him. We might even have the notion that if we live just right, then God will be pleased with us, and in turn things will go well for us. After all, the Bible does say, "*Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart*" (Psalm 37:4).

It is very tempting and intriguing to think that we could change God's mind (or control him) by doing or saying the right things. But this kind of thinking, that praying a certain way will get us what we want, is wrong. It places us in the role of God and makes God our errand boy, waiting for our next command. We want what we want when we want it, and we don't want to wait to get it (whatever *it* may be). Trusting God, no matter what is happening in our lives, is a scary place to be. We don't *naturally* trust God to be in control of our lives, but this is exactly what God wants us to learn and to do. He wants us to trust and depend on him no matter what the circumstances in life are. In fact, I think more often than not, he puts difficult and scary circumstances into our lives for this very purpose. The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God. God wants to teach us how to please him, and this is only accomplished by trusting him, not trying to control him. And when this happens, God's desires become our desires. In other words, he *literally* puts his desires in our hearts!

If this prayer isn't a "lever" to get God to do *our* will, then what is it? It is a prayer of faith. It is a prayer of dependence on Holy God. It is a prayer that teaches us to ask not for our will, but for God's will to be done in our lives. The Lord's Prayer isn't magical, but it *is* supernatural. It's supernatural because it comes from God, and only God can help us to change our thinking and allow *his desires* to be accomplished in our hearts and minds.

Jesus said, "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:5-8).

Of course, this doesn't mean we shouldn't pray in public, but it does mean we shouldn't pray with feigned piety. Nor should we use meaningless repetition in our prayers.

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Prayer is simply talking to God and then listening to his direction, guided by his Word. He wants us to talk to him, to be our closest friend, and at the same time to trust him to be God in control; not our equal, or even worse, our servant.

There are six key elements to the Lord's Prayer (you will need to make a copy of this list, found in the patterns section, for an overhead projector):

- 1) "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
- 2) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
- 3) Give us this day our daily bread.
- 4) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
- 5) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
- 6) For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

Each lesson in this series is accompanied with a craft, game, memory work, and song- time suggestions (see below). At the back of the book you will find the Lesson Overviews and patterns. Many of the lessons have special enrichment ideas to actively engage your students. If you use both the craft and game for each session, it will take six, two-hour sessions to complete this series. However, if you split each lesson into two sessions (recommended), whereby you present the lesson, memory verse, craft and songs in the first session and the game with lesson review, memory recitation, and songs in the next session, it will take twelve, one-hour sessions to complete this series.

God bless you in your ministry to children and youth,



Sarah A. Keith

Song Time Suggestions

Classic Hymns: *The Lord's Prayer* (sung a cappella); *He Leadeth Me*

Group Publishing: *Let Us Pray, Hey Now, He's A Big, Big God, Awesome God*

Maranatha Kids: *Heaven is a Wonderful Place / When I Get To Heaven, Wherever Two Or Three Are Gathered, Your Everlasting Love*

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Class Introduction

“What is prayer?” (Allow for discussion) We do not need to use fancy words or behave a certain way in order to pray. Prayer is simply talking to God. What are some ways and situations when we pray? (Discuss: Before meals or bedtime, in church. With our eyes closed or open, bowed heads, heads held high, kneeling or standing. When we’re happy, sad, or we’ve done something wrong.) We can talk to God anytime and anywhere.

(Hold up a model of a car.)

This is a model of a car. It’s not a real car, but it’s a close copy of what the real car looks like. The headlights, the doors, the wheels, the fenders, are all in the right place.

One day when Jesus was praying, one of his disciples said, “Lord, teach *us* to pray.” Jesus then taught them the Lord’s Prayer. It is a model or guide of how to pray correctly. Over the next several weeks we will learn the prayer that Jesus taught them and all of his followers to pray. We will also play some fun games and make special crafts to help us remember the prayer. There is nothing magical about Jesus’ prayer, but it *is* supernatural. Do you know what supernatural means? (Allow for discussion). Supernatural is something miraculously greater than the usual way of things. It is God-given and greater than we are. We are able to pray the Lord’s Prayer, *and mean it*, when God has miraculously and supernaturally changed us to become like him. Do you have any idea how we are changed to become like God? (Allow for discussion)

When we trust and obey Jesus by asking him to be our Forever Friend and Savior, God begins to change us to become more and more like him. Only then are we able to say the Lord’s Prayer, *and mean it and want it*, for our lives!

If you are not sure if you are Jesus’ Forever Friend, then listen closely to today’s lesson and you will discover how to be supernaturally changed!

Say the Lord’s Prayer: (Overhead pattern in the back of the book.)

Explain the underlined words and phrases:

“which art” = “who is”

“hallowed” = “holy, perfect”

“thy” = “your”

“debts” = “sin, wrong doing”

“debtors” = “people who do wrong to you”

“temptation” = someone or something that leads us or lures us to do wrong.

“thine” = “yours”

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Lesson One: God's Holiness

Song Time *The Lord's Prayer, Let Us Pray, Awesome God*



Enrichment Idea

"I've got a message."

(Choose one child to be the mediator or go-between and then explain the term. A mediator is someone who helps two people or two parties resolve an issue. A mediator is a peacemaker. Ask the rest of the class to think of one thing they would like to say to you in your class. Let them know they cannot tell their message directly to the teacher, but they might have an opportunity to whisper their messages to the mediator so they can tell the teacher what's on their minds. Have the teacher choose three children to tell their messages to the mediator. Then have the mediator come whisper their messages, one by one, to the teacher.)

The mediator represented Jesus; the teacher represented God. When Jesus is our Savior and Forever Friend, we can pray directly to God, because Jesus is our mediator, our go-between, our peacemaker. The Bible says, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and people, the man Christ Jesus..." (1 Timothy 2:5). Therefore, when we pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, Jesus makes it possible for us to pray directly to God. This means we don't need to pray through, or to, anyone else in order to speak to God!

The Prayer of Jesus, The Lord's Prayer, begins by directing our prayers reverently and respectfully to "Our Father" in heaven. Notice also that the prayer is directed to "Our Father" and not just to "God, our Creator." This is very important, because only when Jesus is our Savior and Forever Friend can we call God, *our Father*.

Why do you suppose we need a mediator or a peacemaker to pray to God?
(Allow for discussion)

We need a mediator because we are sinful. The Lord's Prayer begins with, "Our Father who art in Heaven," and continues with, "Hallowed be thy name." Remember what hallowed means? Hallowed means holy or set apart. This tells us that God is perfect and without sin.

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Enrichment Idea

Jesus Cleans Me Up

(You will need: several clean, white, cotton cloths; water-based, washable markers; a large clear bowl; water and bleach solution. Make sure you try this at home before presenting to the class to make sure the ink disappears. To illustrate God's holiness, give each child a washable, water-based marker. Using the markers, have children write different kinds of sins such as greed, lying, stealing, gossip, hate, etc. onto the cloths with the marker.)

(Hold up some of the cloths.)

Say: These cloths were clean, but now they are very dirty. This is an example of how our sinfulness makes us dirty. And because we are sinful, God cannot allow us into his presence, because he is holy and without sin.

In fact, the Bible says our sinfulness makes us *enemies* of God (Romans 5:10), which is why we need a peacemaker. The great news is that Jesus understands our situation! He knows how impossible it is for us to be perfect and without sin. Jesus was tempted to do wrong, yet never did anything wrong! In fact, rather than allowing us to take the punishment we deserve for sinning, he took our punishment by dying on the cross for us. He did this for us because he loves us. Since Jesus died in our place and has forgiven our sins and made us clean, we can now go directly to God, our Heavenly Father, because Jesus is our mediator, our peacemaker. The Bible says that when we admit we are sinful, God is faithful to forgive us and to cleanse us from all our sins
(1 John 1:9).

(Dip the cloths into the water and bleach solution.)

Just as these cloths are made clean, when we trust in Jesus, we too are made clean by him! When Jesus cleanses us, we are supernaturally changed to become like him. Only then can we go into God's *heavenly* and *holy* presence. Only then are we able to become his Forever Friend! Only then can we begin our prayers with, "Our Father which art in Heaven..."

We must always remember to pray to God with honor and respect. This is why we often bow our heads and close our eyes when we pray. God is not our equal; he is holy, but he loves us and wants to talk to us. And when we talk to him, he has promised to hear us and answer us. We might get a yes answer, a no, or a wait answer, but God will always answer us with what is best for our lives.

Bible Memory Verse (Begin memorizing the prayer. You can include hand motions.) ***Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.***

Pray "Dear God: You alone deserve honor and praise. Thank you for allowing us to come into your holy presence. Thank you for who you are and for cleansing us from our sin. You are an awesome and wonderful God and Savior. Amen."

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Craft: Prayer Wheel

The Prayer Wheel can be used as a daily prayer guide using the six key parts of the Lord's Prayer. On Sunday say and meditate (think about) the entire prayer, then Monday through Saturday focus on each of the six parts of the prayer (Monday #1, Tuesday #2, Wednesday #3 and so on). Each part has daily challenges for you to accomplish (show sample prayer wheel). Directions are in the patterns section at the back of the book.



Lesson Review

(To be used when dividing the lesson into two sessions.)

Song Time *The Lord's Prayer, Let Us Pray, Awesome God*

Bible Memorization

Children cut out their "Door Hanger Memory Card" (in the patterns section), then review today's memory verse:

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."

Discussion Questions

- 1) Review difficult words from the prayer (from Class Introduction).
- 2) What does the word mediator mean? (Go-between or peacemaker.)
- 3) How is it possible for us to pray to Holy God? (Because Jesus is our mediator.)
- 4) How does Jesus become our mediator and Savior? (By confessing or admitting our sinfulness and asking him to be our Savior and Forever Friend.)
- 5) Why can't we pray to God without a mediator? (He is holy and we are sinful.)

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Game: Buckets of Praise (Included with purchase.)

End of Sample.

Buy the book for the children in your ministry; teach them to pray the Lord's Prayer:
<http://www.sundayschoolnetwork.com/curriculum-Lords-Prayer.html>

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