

The Power of Prayer

Summer Key Passage:

"Therefore put on the full armor of God,
so that when the day of evil comes,
you may be able to stand your ground,
and after you have done everything, to stand."
Ephesians 6:13 (NIV)

Today's Story Point:

Prayer brings us closer to God.

Today's Bible Passage:

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."
Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)

LEADER PREP:

Paul's description of the armor of God ends with several verses on prayer, reminding readers that prayer is also useful as a part of God's armor. Through prayer we communicate to God and deepen our relationship with him. Paul tells readers to pray all kinds of prayers and to keep on praying.

While most children understand that prayer is talking to God, many aren't sure what to say to God besides giving him a list of things they want. Use this journey to help children discover that prayer includes praising God, telling him our fears and needs, and sharing our joys and sorrows with him. Most of all, prayer is talking to our truest Friend.

WELCOME TIME

Talking to God NO PREP	When do I pray? NO PREP
<p>Encourage children to raise their hands if they can think of a way to talk to someone that isn't in the same room with them. If kids need help with ideas, suggest things like phones, letters, e-mails, or maybe even shouting. Then ask them if they have any ideas on how we can talk to God.</p> <p>ASK: How do we communicate with God? Why should we communicate with God?</p> <p>SAY • When we communicate with our family and friends, we get to know them better and they get to know us better. It's the same way with God. He wants us to grow close to Him, and one way we can do that is by communicating with him. We do this through prayer. Prayer brings us closer to God.</p>	<p>Give each child a sheet of blank paper and instruct them to draw or write about times when they can pray and talk to God.</p> <p>SAY • We can pray when we are standing, walking, kneeling, bowing, or singing. We can pray quietly when we are lying down in bed. We can pray with our hands together or with outstretched arms. We can pray in the morning, before meals, and even at night. Prayer brings us closer to God.</p>

LARGE GROUP TIME

WORSHIP:

Choose 3 to 4 songs to sing today. Encourage leaders to participate by doing the hand motions!

SUMMER KEY PASSAGE:

Show the summer key passage and read it aloud with the kids. Remind them that they have the entire summer to learn this verse, and that if it doesn't make sense now, to keep coming back to learn what the armor of God is all about!



SUMMER MEMORY VERSE

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

EPHESIANS 6:13 (NIV)



BIBLE STORY:

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

SAY • Today, we will be learning that God loves it when we talk to Him. Another name for “talking to God” is called **prayer**. Sometimes it seems intimidating to pray to God and we might wonder how should we talk or pray to God. In the Bible, Jesus shows us how to pray. We can keep our prayers simple, and God listens to us no matter if our prayers are long or short. And even if we just don't have the right words to say, God knows what we mean in our hearts. He simply wants us to pray with our own words, sharing our needs, thanks, praise, and what we're sorry for.

Today we're going to learn about something called the Lord's Prayer. Jesus modeled a good way for us to pray when he prayed to God. Let's see how **prayer can bring us closer to God**.

Our Father, who lives in heaven, may your name be honored.

May your kingdom come.

May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive others.

Keep us from sinning when we are tempted, save us from the evil one.

This prayer might be a little tough to understand when you first hear it, but we're going to go through it and try to explain what it means.

Our Father, who lives in heaven means we're praying to our Father who is in heaven. God likes it when we call him father and he wants us to talk to him like we talk to our own father. God is our loving father and we are his special children.

May your name be honored is next. God just wants us to remember that we need to treat him super special because he is God and when we pray to him we need to be respectful.

May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. This means we are praying that people would live in peace and love with one another the way it is in heaven. It reminds us that we should be living the way God wants us to everyday.

Give us this day our daily bread means give us today all that we need, like food, water and a place to live. When we ask God for things like that, it shows that we trust Him and that we leave the decision to God.

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive others. This next part of the prayer is asking for forgiveness for our mistakes. Forgiveness means that we are sorry for something we've done and we don't want to do it anymore. We also need to forgive people who have done wrong to us.

Keep us from sinning, save us from evil. This part of the prayer is really neat because it asks God to help us to know the right thing to do. To protect us against the evil that is in the world and keep us away from it.

SAY • When Jesus showed us how to pray in Matthew 6, he showed us that we have a lot we can talk to God about. We can use this as an example when we aren't exactly sure how to pray. But most importantly, just talk to God. You can talk to God about every little thing you have going on in your life, and He wants to hear from you. **Prayer will bring you closer to God.**

REVIEW ACTIVITY & PRAYER

Prayer Wheel SOME PREP	Wow, Sorry, Thanks, Please NO PREP
Have kids color the two parts of the prayer wheel. Instruct them to cut and glue them. Have them glue the bottom one to a full size paper plates. Secure the second piece at the center with a brass fastener so that they can spin the top wheel around.	The Lord's Prayer can be boiled down to four parts: Wow: We acknowledge how amazing God is. It might sound something like "God you are so loving. God you are so powerful. God you are so generous."

Encourage them to spin the top paper around, showing when they can pray.



SAY • We can pray about anything. We can pray at any time and in any place. We can always talk to God! We know that when we talk to someone we get closer to them and our relationship grows. In the same way, prayer can be a part of our spiritual armor because **prayer brings us closer to God, who is the greatest protector of all.**

Sorry: We confess our sins and receive God's endless forgiveness.

Thanks: We thank God for everything He has given us for daily life and everything He did for us in giving us His one and only Son Jesus.

Please: We present our needs and worries and fears and hopes for ourselves and others before Him.

Take time in your small group to pray through these four things. Feel free to lead your group however you want in this portion, but remind them that praying to God is important if they want to grow in their walk with Him.

CHECKOUT PROCEDURE:

- As parents begin to arrive, open the door and have one leader stand just outside the classroom door with the attendance sheet.
- Take the parent's security sticker and call loudly for the child to come.
- While you wait for the child to come, tell the parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the service and distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.
- Before you let the child leave the classroom, look to see that the parent and child security codes match and remove the sticker from the child's shirt as they leave.

Note: If a parent lost their security sticker, send them to the Service Lead to receive a temporary sticker; never allow a child to go to a parent unless they have the security sticker.

LOOP KIDS LEADER CLEANING GUIDELINES

Immediately after each service, clean the classrooms according to the posted cleaning guidelines.