

The Power of Prayer

Summer Key Passage: "Put on the full armor of God... so that you can stand strong." Ephesians 6:13
(paraphrased)

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)

BEFORE THE SERVICE:

- Be sure the music is playing as kids arrive.
 - Set out today's Coloring Page and some crayons at the tables.
 - Review the activities to make sure you're prepared for the day.
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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:

- Greet kids at the door, take their temperature, and then add their names to the Check-in Sheet.
- Have a few bins of toys out for kids to play as they enter the room
- Feel free to play music on the TV as kids are playing if you'd like.

When do I pray?

NO PREP

Give each child a sheet of blank paper and instruct them to draw times when they can pray and talk to God.

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.**

Talking to God

NO PREP

Ask 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.

ASK: How do we communicate with God? Why should we communicate with God?

SAY • God wants us to come and talk to Him. God wants us to tell Him what is on our hearts and minds. God is a great listener and wants the very best for us. We can talk to God at anytime and in any place. **Prayer brings us closer to God.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

WORSHIP TIME:

Choose 2-3 songs to play on the TV. Invite the kids to stand and sing, and if you know the motions you can do them with the kids. When worship is done, have them sit back down on their circle dot.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the children to sit cross-legged and listen quietly as you read today's story.

Say the Bible is God's words. Open your Bible and tell the story.

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**.

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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.**

REPEAT THE MEMORY PASSAGE:

If you would like, create simple hand motions for words of the summer key passage. Invite the children to repeat the motions as you say the key passage.


PRAYER:

SAY • Let's close our eyes to pray. Why do we pray? *(Answer: To open our hearts to God and talk to Him!)* Remind the children that we can talk to God anytime and anywhere because He cares for us. Invite them to take turns talking to God. Ask the children to close their eyes, fold their hands and bow their heads and then lead your group in prayer.



ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to do with the class for the rest of the service.

Prayer Wheel SOME PREP	Closing Prayer NO PREP
<p>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.</p> <p>Encourage them to spin the top paper around, showing when they can pray.</p> <p>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.</p> 	<p>Have children form a circle and sit on the floor. Remind them that God wants to hear from us, and encourage the group to pray through the Lord's Prayer in a kid friendly way.</p> <p>Ask the group if they have any prayer requests, then close in prayer. You can also use a kid-friendly version of the Lord's Prayer: Wow, Sorry, Thanks, Please.</p> <p>SAY • Lord, thank you that we can come to you anytime and anywhere. Thank you that you love to listen to us and be close to us. Please help us put you first in our life and share everything with you. In the name of Jesus, Amen.</p>

DISMISSAL

- As parents begin to arrive, open the door and have one leader stand just inside the classroom door with the attendance sheet.
- Take the parent's security sticker and call for their child to be brought to the door.
- Check to make sure the security codes match and remove the sticker from the child's back.
- Carefully hand the child to their parent, along with their diaper bags if they brought one, and thank them for coming to Loop Kids today!

Note: If a parent lost their security sticker, send them to the check-in desk for approval. Never allow a child to go to a parent unless they have the security stickers.

LOOP KIDS LEADER CLEANING GUIDELINES

Immediately after each service, please do the following:

- Please spray and wipe down the following areas.
 - Door knobs (both sides), Light switches, Hand Sanitizer Dispenser, Remote Controls,
 - Tables and Chairs (spray and let air dry)
 - Large Stationary items like Play Structures, Train Tables, Baby Swings or Changing Tables (spray and let air dry)
 - Any other surfaces touched during the service.
- Please put all toys that were used in your service in the same bin that you got them from (9am service toys back in 9am service bins, etc). If you noticed a child with a toy in their mouth during the service, please place it in the dirty bin for extra cleaning.