

SECTION 4.2

Prayer

Main Theme

God wants us to have a relationship with Him. One way this relationship grows is when we talk to God and listen to God. This is called prayer.

Lesson Overview

Because God made man in His image, man has the ability to have conversations and relationships. Most likely, those who are closest to us are the ones with whom we speak often. The more we communicate with them, the closer our relationships grow.

Just as our personal relationships grow because of conversations, our relationship with God will grow as we talk with Him.

Prayer is talking to God. We can pray anytime and anywhere. Because God knows our thoughts, we can talk to God out loud or silently. We can thank Him for all He has done for us and others. We can praise Him for all His mighty power. We can talk to Him about what other people need, and we can talk to Him about our lives and tell Him why we love Him. God promises in 1 John 5:14 that if we ask anything according to His will, He will give us what we need. By asking according to His will we are letting God know that we trust Him to give us exactly what He knows we need.

As we grow in our communication with God, our relationship with Him grows, and we become the people He created us to be. When we talk to God in prayer, we can remember that growing our relationship with Him is more important than making sure we use the perfect words in our prayers. Prayer is an ongoing process — that is good news for adults and kids!

Memory Verse:

1 John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

Definitions:

Communicate — share information or ideas

Praying — having a conversation with God

Lesson Objectives

Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so that kids would be able to:

- Understand that praying is a conversation with God.
- Realize they can pray anywhere at any time.
- Think of specific things they can pray about in their lives.
- Understand that God promises to hear and answer according to what He sees as best.

Your Objectives:

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Planning

Time Considerations

Consider modifying your Large Group lesson to best fit your allotted time frame. Here are some suggestions if you have:

15 Minutes: *Opening prayer, Introduction, Main Lesson Teaching Outline, Application, and closing prayer.*

20 Minutes: *Opening prayer, Introduction, Main Lesson Teaching Outline, Application, and closing prayer.*

Consider an interactive Introduction Activity OR Main Lesson Activity from the Resource Bundle to support your teaching.

25 Minutes: *Opening prayer, Introduction, Main Lesson Teaching Outline, Application, and closing prayer.*

Consider adding in an Introduction Activity AND a Main Lesson Activity from the Resource Bundle along with Sum It Up to support your teaching.

Prayer activities with instructions available on the Resource Bundle:

Introduction Activity Options:

- 1) Conversation Openers
- 2) Common Phrases

Main Lesson Activity Options

- 1) Examples of Prayer
- 2) How Do I Pray?

Visit awana.org/ttresourcebundle to download these free lesson options!

Your Plan

What do you need to prepare ahead of time?

Space Considerations:

Chairs -

Size of room -

Whiteboard -

Lesson Considerations:

Activities to include from Resource Bundle or other source -

Personal stories/short narratives to support lesson -

Audiovisual equipment -

Download PowerPoint from Resource Bundle or create presentation -

Print handouts from Resource Bundle -

Props and supplies -

Volunteers for lesson -

Large Group Lesson

Introduction

In the *Start Here* portion of the "Prayer" section of the handbook, your T&T kids were asked to have a one-way conversation with someone, not allowing them to speak.

Open the lesson by giving the kids a chance to share their lists. Then ask them the questions below.

- **How did you feel during that conversation?**
- **Why did you feel that way?**
- **How do you think the other person felt? Why?**
- **Did the conversation benefit your friendship? Why or why not?**

After kids answer the question, share these concepts:

- **In order for our relationships with others to grow, we need to communicate, or talk to them.**
- **Communication allows us to get to know others better, and helps them get to know us more.**
- **Our friendships and relationships deepen when we share what we are thinking and feeling.**

Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of prayer.

Introduction activity options are available for download at: awana.org/tresourcebundle

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TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Start Here

Ask your friend to have a conversation, but keep talking and don't let the other person speak. Then give a chance for your friend to talk and explain what you were doing. Ask how it felt when you wouldn't stop talking. Draw a happy face below if it made them happy, and an angry face if it made them angry.

Ask a parent or guardian: "Have you ever been friends with someone who did all the talking when you were together? How did you feel when this happened?" Write what you learned below.

Your Introduction Notes:

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Main Lesson Teaching Outline

What is prayer?

- Prayer is a conversation with God. We communicate with God through prayer, and He communicates with us. We can talk to God anywhere and anytime (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6).
- There are no set rules to how we pray. We don't have to pray only at mealtime or bedtime. We don't have to get on our knees. We don't even have to close our eyes (although that sometimes does help us focus on God).

Does the Bible have examples of prayer?

- The Bible contains many examples of how we can pray and what we can pray for. We can praise God when we pray (Psalm 135:3). We can thank God when we pray (Philippians 4:6). We can ask God to help us stay away from temptation (Luke 22:39-40).
- We can also pray for others. We can pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). We can pray for the salvation of others (Romans 10:1). We can thank God for the faith of others (Colossians 1:3-4). We can pray for the health and safety of others (3 John 2).

Does God always answer prayer?

- God always hears our prayers, and our conversation with Him can go on at any time. However, that doesn't mean we can ask God for anything and expect to get it. We can ask, and trust that He will give us what He wants for us, because He is loving and all-knowing, and He sees the bigger picture. When we pray, we can have confidence that if we ask God to answer our prayers according to His plan for us, He will give us what we need.

Visit awana.org/ttresourcebundle to download PowerPoint slides and lesson activity options (see page 158) to support your teaching.

Your Teaching Outline Notes:

Memory Verse:

1 John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

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Explore

God wants us to have a relationship with Him. One way this relationship grows is when we talk to God and listen to God. This is called prayer.

Read your memory verse, 1 John 5:14. When you see your friends, you talk to them. You say, "Hi," and tell them what's new since you saw them last. It would be weird if you just stood and stared at each other. To have a relationship with another person, you have to communicate—to talk with each other.

The same is true of your relationship with God. God wants us to talk to Him—this is what we call praying. Prayer doesn't have to be done on your knees with your eyes closed, although that might be a good idea sometimes. Prayer can be spoken out loud or thought in your head.

First John 5:14, our memory verse this week says that... if we ask anything according to His will He will hear us. What do you think according to His will means?

When the Bible talks about God's will, it is talking about what God wants to happen. God doesn't give us whatever we want just because we pray for it. Part of prayer is trusting that God knows what you really need and praying that He'll give you what you need, not just what you want.

Let's look at some other truths about prayer.

Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and notice what it says about how often we should pray. Write in your own words what you think this means about how often we should pray.

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Look up Philippians 4:6. What should we pray about?

These verses tell us that we should talk with God about everything at the time. We know that God loves us and wants what is best for us. We should always be talking with Him about what He wants us to do—how we can make good choices and how we can help others.

People in the Bible prayed for a lot of different reasons. Look up the following verses and write down the reason why that person prayed.

Luke 22:39-40 _____

Romans 10:1 _____

Colossians 1:3-4 _____

1 Timothy 2:1-2 _____

It is important to remember that a conversation involves two people talking. We need to make sure that we are taking time to listen to God speak to us too. One way we can do that is when we read God's Word, the Bible. You can pray silently to yourself, out loud, or can even write your prayer down. Keep the conversation with God going now by taking a few minutes to talk to Him!

Definitions

Communicate—share information or ideas

Praying—having a conversation with God

Discussion Questions

These questions are just a few that your small group will talk about. Think about your responses to the following questions.

1. What is one thing you really need to talk to God about?
2. When you pray do you listen as well as talk to God? What is something in your life that you really need God's opinion on?

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Lesson Application

Now that your T&T kids know that God is truth and that His very words are truth, it's time to help them apply this truth to their lives.

Ask them the following questions:

- **How often should you pray?**
- **Why does God want us to pray?**
- **What has God done for you that you can praise Him for?**
- **What is something in your life that you can pray for?**

Sum It Up

Sum It Up should last about a minute. Consider incorporating in an activity that will encourage more response from the kids. Possibilities include: lining up on the wall and having them each take a step when they answer a question, tossing a soft ball to each child as they say an answer, interviewing with an object as a pretend "microphone".

Ask kids to tell you one thing they remember from the lesson. After you've gotten responses, recap these key concepts once more:

- **Praying is talking to God, and we can pray anywhere at any time.**
- **When we pray, we can praise God for Who He is, thank Him for what He has done for us, and humbly ask for things we need.**
- **God promises to hear and answer when we pray according to His will for our lives.**

Lesson Application Notes:

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Memorize

1 John 5:14
And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

Review

Hebrews 11:6
And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

Gold Extra Credit

Psalms 66:20
Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!

Romans 8:26
Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Ephesians 6:18
Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication, to that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

Philippians 1:9
And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.

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Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

EXTRA CREDIT COMPLETED

LEARNER'S NAME: _____	DATE: _____	LEARNER'S NAME: _____	DATE: _____
SCORE: _____		GOLD: _____	

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T&T Announcements

What important things do your T&T kids need to know before they leave?

Closing Prayer

Jot down prayer requests: