

BEFORE YOU START ... Small Group Time is a great time for deep conversation. Give kids extra time this week to respond to the questions you ask them so they can feel plenty of space to enter the conversation!

Getting Ready

Do these things ahead of time to be prepared to lead your Small Group.

- Review all parts of this lesson.
- Re-read the Lesson Summary and make note of the main themes.
- Complete all the fill-in sections of lesson yourself.
- Plan how you want to spend your Small Group Time, based on the needs of your particular group of kids (see sample schedules below for help).
- Pray for God to use this lesson to disciple the kids in your group.

Sample Schedules

The sample schedules below are for a small group time that is 30 minutes long—adjust accordingly for your allotted time.

For a group who comes with the lesson already done in their handbook:

- 5 MIN** Use a “Beginning Your Group” option to transition to the lesson.
- 2 MIN** Review the Lesson Summary to highlight the main idea of the lesson.
- 10 MIN** Engage your group in conversation using the *Explore* section and Discussion Questions.
- 8 MIN** Practice reciting the memory verse
- 5 MIN** Ask for prayer requests, and pray as a group.

For a group who needs time in club to do the handbook work together:

- 2 MIN** Use a “Beginning Your Group” option to transition to the lesson.
- 2 MIN** Review the Lesson Summary to highlight the main idea of the lesson.
- 12 MIN** Look up the verses and complete *Explore* as a group. Discuss as you go.
- 10 MIN** Work on memorizing the memory verse
- 4 MIN** Ask for prayer requests, and pray as a group.

SECTION 4.2 Prayer



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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: “Do you have a friend that does all the talking when you are together? How do you feel when this happens?” Write what you learned below.

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Beginning Your Group Time

Pick one of the options below to transition the kids into Small Group Time. This will get them thinking by briefly engaging them in an activity or discussion.

OPTION 1: “20 Questions” Activity

Have one child think of something. Let the other kids ask twenty “yes or no” questions to try to figure out what the first child is thinking.

Suggested Transition Statement:

The only way to figure out what (insert name) was thinking is to ask questions. We had to talk and communicate. God wants us to communicate with Him. He already knows what we are thinking, but He wants to have a relationship with Him.

OPTION 2: Using Start Here

How did your one-sided conversation go? What did the other person do? How would you feel if someone did that to you? Would you try to stop them or just let them keep talking?

Suggested Transition Statement:

In a healthy conversation, both people are communicating. Prayer is a way we communicate with God. We can tell Him what we are thinking and feeling, but we should also be listening to what He may be telling us.

OPTION 3: Icebreaker Questions

How do you usually greet a good friend? How about a teacher or pastor? What kinds of questions do you ask to get to know someone?

Have you ever had a toy that you thought would last forever but it broke almost right away? What was the toy? How did it break?

Suggested Transition Statement:

We talk to people differently depending on how well we know them and what is going on. There is not one right way to pray, we all may talk to God differently. Jesus gave us examples in the Bible, but there is no magic formula; it is a conversation.

LESSON 4.2 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.*

Lesson Summary

God wants us to have a relationship with Him. One way this relationship grows is by talking and listening to God, this is called praying. Prayer can be spoken out loud or thought in your head, done on your knees or walking down the street. You can pray for yourself, for other people, for forgiveness, or just talk to God about your life, or why you love Him. Part of prayer is trusting God enough to pray that He'll give you what you need, not just what you want. Prayer is a conversation, and we need to be sure that we are taking time to listen to God, too!

Explore Answers

- 1** 1 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?
ANSWER: Answers may vary.
- 2** Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
A Write in your own words what you think this means.
ANSWER: Answers may vary.
B How often should we pray?
ANSWER: Without ceasing.
- 3** Look up Philippians 4:6. What should we pray about?
ANSWER: Everything
- 4** Look up the following verses and write down the reason why that person prayed.
A Luke 22:39-40
ANSWER: To stay away from temptation
B Romans 10:1
ANSWER: That someone would be saved
C Colossians 1:3-4
ANSWER: To thank God for someone's faith
D 1 Timothy 2:1-2
ANSWER: For our leaders and so we can live quiet lives

4.2 PRAYER

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 praying.

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?

1

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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PRAYER 4.2

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

3

These verses tell us that we should talk with God about everything all 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 for that person to pray.

Luke 22:39-40 **4 A**

Romans 10:1 **4 B**

Colossians 1:3-4 **4 C**

1 Timothy 2:1-2 **4 D**

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 idea

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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LEADER TIP ...

Knowing what it says and letting it change us are two different things. There were two groups in the New Testament, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, who knew what Scripture said but they twisted it to mean what they wanted it to mean. God wants us to not only know what is in Scripture, but to let it change our lives. As we model life change to kids, they learn from our example.

Discussion Questions

After asking the discussion questions from the handbook, use the following questions.

- What is prayer?
- God already knows what you are thinking and feeling. Why do you think He wants you to tell Him?
- What do you think it means to pray for God's will instead of just what we want?
- What are some things that this lesson helped you realize you could pray about?
- God wants you to pray for different people in your life. Who are the most difficult people to pray for?
- Where and when can you pray?

Make It Stick

Do you need a creative activity to help your group memorize verses? Look here!

Race the Toss

Have the kids toss a ball or small object into the air and catch it. Each time they do, have them say a couple words of the verse. Repeat until they have said the entire verse. As the kids gets better and better at saying the verse, have them race against themselves to see how much of the verse they can say while the ball is in the air.

Notes

4.2 PRAYER



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

Psalm 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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PRAYER 4.2



SECTION 4.2 COMPLETED 

Leader Signature	Date

EXTRA CREDIT COMPLETED 

Leader Initials SILVER	Date	Leader Initials GOLD	Date

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REMEMBER ... Routine can occasionally breed boredom. If your group is going well, keep doing what you are doing. If your group feels a little dull, change up what you are doing to create new energy in your group.

How'd It Go?

Reflections:

What do you need to do the same?

What do you need to do differently?

Thank You

Thank you for looking me in the eyes when I am talking to you. That makes me feel like you are really listening.

— Fourth-Grader