

Focus: Jesus prays for us.

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: Easter Medley—Cycle A
Gospel reading: In lesson plan
Book: Teach me to Pray

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about how the Holy Spirit is our helper sent by God because Jesus asked for us to never be alone. This week Jesus prays that we can have life with God forever.

Opening Prayer

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.

Let us pray.

Dear God, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to pray for us. Help us to follow his commandments and love others as you love us. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Come Christians, Join to Sing, track: 1, from EASTER CD CYCLE A

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice:
Alleluia! Amen!
Praise yet our Christ again,

Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
Alleluia! Amen!
Alleluia! Amen!
Alleluia! Amen!

Memory Verse

Say: Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.

Give glory and praise to God.

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: God the Father is all loving and forgiving. He created everything we need. When we show others the goodness of God we are giving praise to God for he is always good and loves us no matter what.

Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of John.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

Read: None, pp. n/a,

Jesus prayed:

[Praying hands]

“Father,

[Point heavenward]

Give glory to your Son,

[Open hands, palms face up, gesture as giving a gift]

That your Son may give glory to you.”

[Raise hands in praise]

Jesus continued to pray

[Praying hands]

for eternal life for his followers,

[Use index and middle fingers of one hand to “walk” on the palm of the other hand]

That they would know his heavenly Father.

[Point heavenward]

And that they would be happy with him forever.

[Cross hands over heart]

We are God’s people

[Point heavenward]

and Jesus prayed for us.

[Praying hands]

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion Starters:

- *What did Jesus ask from God the Father?*
- *Why do you think Jesus wanted to give glory to God?*
- *What did Jesus ask for his followers?*
- *Why does Jesus pray for us?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus prayed to his heavenly Father to show us that God’s children always pray for each other. Prayer is talking with God. We talk with our parents and grandparents and family because we love them and want to know them better. We pray to God because we want to have a relationship with him too.

Jesus asked that his followers be happy with God forever. When we live in love, we live in happiness.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Special Conversations:

When we say prayers we are talking to God. We are going to read a book about praying and what makes it special.

Read the book "Teach Me to Pray"

Prayer is special because we can say our prayers anywhere, not just in church. We can say prayers before meals, when we wake up, at bed time.

See if they can think of other times to say prayers.

Activity 2:

Intercessory Prayer:

God's people pray for each other so that we can show God that we love them as much as we love God the Father. We can pray for others too. Intercessions are special prayers we say for others, not for ourselves.

Invite the children to take turns naming people or situations (not fighting, keeping peace, helping others) for whom they would like to pray. After each one, repeat the essence of it and expand it to make it more inclusive. (For example, "For Jason's uncle and all members of the military, we pray.") Teach the children to respond with the words: "Loving God, hear our prayer."

OR use the following prayers for others:

The response for all: Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who take care of us: parents, grandparents and teachers, in Jesus' name, we pray. (Resp)

We pray for those who are hurt or sick, in Jesus' name, we pray. (Resp)

We pray for those who protect our country, in Jesus' name, we pray. (Resp)

We pray for Fr. Joe and all religious leaders everywhere, in Jesus' name, we pray.

(Resp)

We pray for Pope Francis, in Jesus' name, we pray. (Resp)

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

Closing Prayer

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who gives eternal life to everyone?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who comes to us from the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who was sent by God the Father to live in us?

Sending Forth

Say: Let's think of times we can pray together, with our friends and family (at meals, to start the day, before bedtime, when you are thankful, sad, etc.) Being closer to Jesus through prayer is a gift we can give ourselves every day, any where.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Rejoice in the Lord Always" track 3 from EASTER CD CYCLE A while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.