

**Focus:** Jesus teaches us to pray

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
CD-Bible Songs for Kids Vol. 1  
Bible: The Bible for Children  
Books: Teach Me to Pray and The Lord's Prayer  
Red/Green cards

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about a time when Jesus went to visit his friends Martha and Mary and we learned that there is a time to work, a time to play and a time to listen to God's word. This week Jesus' disciples ask him to teach them how to pray.*

**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.*

*Almighty God, you always hear our prayers. You are always ready to send us your Spirit. We ask you to guide us, to help us forgive others and help us to do what is right. We pray this through Jesus, your Son and our Lord.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Happy All the Time*, track: 3, from Bible Songs for Kids Vol 1

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. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

*Movement cues in brackets [].*

I'm inright [point in], outright [point out],  
upright [point up], downright [point down]  
Happy all the time [clap with each word]  
I'm inright [point in], outright [point out],  
upright [point up], downright [point down]  
Happy all the time [clap with each word]

Since Jesus Christ came in  
And cleansed my heart from sin...  
I'm inright [point in], outright [point out],  
upright [point up], downright [point down]  
Happy all the time [clap with each word]

(Repeat all three times, getting faster  
and faster each time, then sing the 2nd  
verse a fourth time to close)

### Memory Verse

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

*Your kingdom come.*

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

Say: *This verse is from the Lord's Prayer, also called the Our Father. When we pray these words we are letting God know we want this world to be like heaven. A place of peace and harmony. We can help make this a peaceful world by arguing less and helping others more. Each time we do this we are helping God's kingdom on earth.*

### Gospel Story

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

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:** The Bible for Children, pp. 252-253, *The Lord's Prayer*

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

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

### Discussion Starters:

- *What do the disciples ask of Jesus?*
- *How does Jesus want us to pray?*
- *What prayer does Jesus teach us?*
- *What does Jesus call God?*
- *Why is it important that Jesus calls God, Father?*
- *What does Jesus say about how much we should pray?*
- *What happens when the friend comes in the middle of the night?*
- *What 3 words does Jesus use to describe how to pray?*

### Reflection on Reading:

*In today's Gospel Jesus teaches his disciples to pray the Lord's Prayer. Jesus is at prayer when his disciples ask, "how should we pray?" Jesus tells them to pray simply and he taught them the Our Father.*

*Jesus shows them how to pray by calling God "Abba", a word that means "daddy". By praying this way, Jesus shows the disciples that God is a loving and caring Father. The rest of the prayer teaches the disciples how to live a Christian life. – Keep God's name holy, follow God's laws, come to church (communion), forgive others, help us to make the right choice.*

*Today's Gospel invites us to bring our needs to God, and to trust that God hears our prayers. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to live as God's children.*

**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. We don't have to say them 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.

There are many different kinds of prayers.

When we make the Sign of the Cross (demonstrate) we are saying a prayer to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We are saying that we believe in their love and strength.

We say a special prayer in Church every week called the Our Father. We are going to read a book that tells the story of Jesus and this very special prayer.

Read Our Father, The Prayer Jesus Taught Us

Practice the prayer using the echo method break it down as follows and have them repeat each phrase right after you.

Our Father  
 Who art in Heaven  
 Hallowed be Thy Name  
 Thy Kingdom come  
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread  
 And forgive us our trespasses  
 As we forgive those who trespass against us  
 And lead us not into temptation  
 But deliver us from evil

If there is time do this again, only make mistakes they can "fix".

i.e. Our Feather, Who lives in Southbury, give us our daily turkeys... obvious things they will catch.

Activity 2:

All good things come from God. Without God there is no goodness. Who would want to live in a world without goodness? Those who love God are filled with his love and goodness.

Even the simplest prayer or smallest kindness to someone else, if it is done in the name of Jesus, becomes an act of love for God.

Let's play a game to see if we know how to be kind to someone else.

Red Light-Green Light

(Use the colored paper squares) Have children raise Red for a bad idea (STOP), Green for a good idea (GO). These are just a few examples. Please make up some more of your own. (Can also use Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down)

- You see a friend crying so you just walk right by.
- You hear your parents talking so you wait patiently before asking a question.
- It is very late and you are tired, so you cry loudly and complain about everything.
- You don't really like peas, but you eat two more bites for mom.
- Time for bed, so you stomp your feet and say, "NO!"
- It is morning and everyone is waking up. You still feel tired, but you give a big smile and a hug good morning to your mom and dad.
- You give your unused toys to the homeless shelter
- A friend asks to play with your new game and you won't share.
- You help your mom and dad deliver food to the food bank
- A child at the playground makes a mistake and you make fun of them.
- There is a new kid at school and you ask him to play with you on the playground.
- You throw a temper tantrum when you don't get what you want
- Before you go home from a play date you help clean up
- Listen to your parent when they tell you it's time to clean up your room
- You don't pay attention at the grocery store and you hit someone with a shopping cart
- You run or skate around inside a store
- Visit someone in a nursing home
- Make a card for a sick friend
- You get mad and hit your brother or sister

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 listens to our prayers?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who was sent by God to teach us to pray?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who is a gift from a loving and listening God?*

**Sending Forth**

*Say: Remember that we can say our prayers any where. Prayer is a conversation with God and He listens to all our prayers. We may not always get the answer we want, but we get an answer where we can find God's love.*

**Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "To God be the Glory" track 31 from Bible Songs for Kids Vol 1 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.