



AUGUST 16, 2026

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT PRAYER

LUKE 11; 18

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus taught people to keep praying. God is a good Father who will give His people what they need. The most important prayer we can pray is to tell God we have sinned and ask for His forgiveness. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so sinners can be made right with God.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is prayer? Prayer is talking with God to praise Him, ask Him for help, and confess our sins.

MEMORY VERSE

Jeremiah 29:12-13



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The disciples often witnessed Jesus communing with His Father in prayer. They recognized this spiritual discipline as one He committed much time to when He drew away from the crowds. Jesus' followers became curious about this practice and desired to better understand it.

One disciple stepped up and boldly asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Rather than lecturing them on the insufficiencies of their own prayer lives or directing them to make long, wordy recitations, Jesus taught them how to commune with God using a simple but profound framework now commonly known as the Lord's Prayer.

Jesus modeled a style of prayer that addressed God as "Father"—not as a distant, unloving, unknowable, or far-off figure. He also prayed in first person plural ("**Our** Father," "give **us**," "as **we** forgive"), reminding the disciples that faith is lived out in community. Jesus engaged in a communal prayer that asked for God's power, provision, forgiveness, mercy, and spiritual protection.

He then told a parable about opening the door to a friend who inconveniences you, revealing to us the boldness and passionate persistence we should employ in prayer. He shared another story about an apathetic judge intervening for justice, and how much more God compassionately desires to intervene in our lives. Through it all, Jesus taught them not to simply beg God for what He can give us, but to leverage prayer as a reminder of God's presence and sovereign control over our lives.

As you reflect on the prayer Christ modeled to His earliest followers, remember that the nature of prayer hasn't changed in the thousands of years since the Lord's Prayer was first uttered. Lead boys and girls to see that God desires to hear from them, save them from their sins, and provide for their needs. Lead them to see that God hears the prayers of those who seek Him and that He stands ready to provide them with their greatest need: salvation from sin. Pray they would come to understand the nearness of God through prayer.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to large group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or practice the memory verse!

MEMORY VERSE

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:12-13, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's memory verse folder to review the verse with the kids.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on August 30!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in large group.

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT PRAYER

One day, Jesus' disciples saw that He was praying. When Jesus finished, one of His disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus said, "Whenever you pray, say this:

"Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And lead us not into temptation."

Jesus also said to them, "Imagine if you were to go to one of your friends at midnight and say, 'Friend, loan me three loaves of bread.' That man would answer from inside and say, 'Don't bother me! It's too late. I've already gone to bed.'

"Yet in boldness, if you were to keep knocking on the door, the man would eventually get up and give you what you were asking for! So I say to you: ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened."

Jesus also said, "If a son asks for a fish, would a good father give him a snake? If a son asks for an egg, will a good father give him a scorpion? How much more will our heavenly Father give us the Holy Spirit when we ask."

Sometime later, Jesus told them a parable about praying and not giving up. He said, "There once was an unkind judge, and a widow kept coming to him over and over, saying, 'Give me justice! Do what is right!' Eventually, that judge gave in and did what the widow was asking for, because she wore him down by asking over and over.

"If this evil judge will finally do what is right, how much more will God grant justice to His people when they cry out to Him day and night!"

Jesus also told another parable about prayer: "Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee was standing and praying like this: 'God, I thank You that I'm not like greedy and sinful people like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I give money to God.'

"But the tax collector just kept saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!'

"I tell you," said Jesus, "only the tax collector went to his house justified. Everyone who lifts himself up will be humbled, and everyone who humbles himself will be lifted up."

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus taught people to keep praying. God is a good Father who will give His people what they need. The most important prayer we can pray is to tell God we have sinned and ask for His forgiveness. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so sinners can be made right with God.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after large group.

GET TO KNOW YOUR GROUP!

It's Promotion Sunday! 🎉

Instead of our usual lesson-themed activity, today, we're taking time to get to know our new kids and leaders!

There are a variety of games in each room, including ones specifically geared toward helping everyone in the room connect with one another. Be sure to bring the energy and participate in the games so kids have a chance to get to know you as well!

CONNECT THE DOTS



One of the greatest tools God has given us is relationship! Taking time to know your kids, celebrate them, and show genuine interest in their lives builds trust that allows biblical truth to take root. Never underestimate the impact of helping kids feel seen, known, and loved!

INTRO TO BIBLE SKILLS

Each week, this box will have a suggested activity to help kids grow in their Bible skills and knowledge! These skills are valuable and we want to help kids start developing them so they can better navigate God's Word as they grow and move up in our ministry.

Today, focus on getting to know your group. Next week, we'll return to our usual rotation of Bible Skills activities.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

PICK-UP REMINDERS!

When pick-up starts, make sure to match each kid's name tag to the security code provided by their parent/guardian!

Once the codes have been matched, have the kid or parent remove the kid's name tag and give it to you so we know they've been picked up. If we see a kid outside their room with a tag, we'll assume they haven't been picked up and return them to their room.

If a parent has lost or doesn't have the security code, call Taylor or a hall captain for assistance!

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!