

PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



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.

LEADER DEVO

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.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S 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



**BIBLE
BUCKS**

NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

AUG 30

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, Jeremiah 29:12-13 will look like:

T Y W C U M A C A P T M A I W H Y Y W S M A F M W Y S M W A Y H

LESSON

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.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

ICEBREAKERS & GAMES

It's Promotion Sunday!

Half of your group is new to our Preteen ministry. Spend some time getting to know them, letting them get to know you, and have some fun playing various icebreakers and “get to know you” games.

Be sure to tell them about the Preteen Opening Ceremonies on August 29 and encourage them to be there! This is going to be a high energy, fun event that they won't want to miss!

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!